FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-044
Tuesday
7 March 1995

ATTENTION!

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SUBSCRIBERS

Effective 15 April 1995, DIA will no longer disseminate FBIS reports to the DOD community, and all current DOD hardcopy subscriptions to these reports will be stopped.

Concurrent with the DIA action, FBIS is conducting a revalidation of all subscriptions as part of FBIS' gradual transition from hardcopy to softcopy products. Consequently, any DOD component with a continuing requirement for hardcopy reports will have to contact FBIS by 1 April 1995 to maintain its current subscriptions. DOD customers may send their requests for subscriptions electronically to RUCWAAB/FBIS Reston Va//Customer Service//, by fax to 703-733-6042, or by mail to P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013. In notifying FBIS that they wish to maintain subscriptions, DOD subscribers should use the format below. Please include in the comments section a brief statement on how you use FBIS hardcopy products. Questions about revalidation of subscriptions may be directed to FBIS Customer Service Representatives at (202) 338-6735 or 1-800-205-8615.

Branch of Service: ____________ Unit: ________________________

Please indicate primary unit function: ____ Intelligence ____ Operations

____ Support ____ Library

Name: ____

Tel # : ____________________ Fax No: ____________________

E-Mail Address: ____

Postal Address: ____

____

____

____

Customer# (above, and to the right, of zipcode on back of report) ______

Report Title (s): ____

____

____

Comments: ____

____

____

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-044 CONTENTS *7 March 1995*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Conflicting Accounts of 'Arafat Saddam-Rabin 'Mediation' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 6 Mar]* 1

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Official Criticizes Peres' Remarks on NPT *[MENA]* 1
Libya Declines UMA Presidency; Algeria To Continue *[Algiers Radio]* 1

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 24 Feb 2

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Reportedly To Establish Palestinian Government *[Paris AL-MUHARRIR 6 Mar]* 4
'Arafat To Chair Tunis Fatah Meetings *[Jericho VOP]* 4
'Arafat Receives Donor State, UNRWA Delegation *[Jericho VOP]* 4
'Arafat Speaks at Funeral of 'Martyr' *[Jericho VOP]* 4
Al-Husayni: Orient House Closure Would End Peace Process *[Jerusalem Radio]* 5
PA Officials Accuse Israel of Obstructing DOP *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 5
Sha'th Previews Amman Meeting on Refugees *[Cairo International]* 5
  Further on Sha'th Remarks *[Jericho VOP]* 6
Ex-PLO Intelligence Chief Faces Arrest on Return to Gaza *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 5 Mar]* 6
Internal 'Crisis' Said To Split Fatah, Delay Elections *[Jerusalem Radio]* 7
Hamas Activist Arrested for Anti-PA Sermon *[HA'ARETZ 5 Mar]* 7
  'Abd-Rabbuh Questioned About Arrest *[London MBC TV]* 7
Correction to PA Member Views Oslo Agreement 8

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

GIA Threatens Belgium Over Arrest of Islamists *[Paris TV]* 9
Arrest Warrants Issued for 2 Newspaper Directors *[Paris International]* 9
  MAP Details Charges *[MAP]* 9
LA TRIBUNE Daily Suspended 'Until Further Notice' *[Paris International]* 9
Airport in Jijel Province Reopened, Renamed *[Algiers Radio]* 9

Egypt

Musa on Rabin's Remarks, Christopher's Visit *[MENA]* 9
Musa Confers With U.S. Ambassador on State Visits *[MENA]* 10
U.S. Stand on Peace Process Losing 'Credibility' *[MENA]* 10
Ex-Defense Minister on National Security Theory *[AL-AHRAM 9 Jan]* 10
Two Americans, Russian Injured in Road Accident *[MENA]* 12
Masked Persons Fire at Police Chief's Vehicle *[MENA]* 12

Morocco

- Filali Presents Government Statement to House *[Rabat TV]* 12

Sudan

- Opposition Party Announces Structural Changes *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 5 Mar]* 16

ARAB PENINSULA

Saudi Arabia

- Defense Minister on Iranian Missiles, Yemen *[Riyadh TV]* 18
- Opposition Statement Says 'Fundamentalists' Arrested *[AFP]* 18

Yemen

- 1 Killed, 44 Injured in Warehouse Explosion *[Sanaa Radio]* 18
- Al-Iryani on Memo, Summit With Saudi Arabia *[Damascus Radio]* 18
- Ex-President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad Interviewed *[London AL-HAYAH 2 Mar]* 19

IRAQ

- Opposition Radio Reports Chaos, Anger in Baghdad *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 20
  - Jordanian Sources Cited on 'Disorders' *[Voice of Iraqi People]* 20
- Reportage on Fighting Between Kurds, Government 20
  - Opposition Said To Capture Samaraa' *[KUNA]* 20
  - Opposition Makes Statement on Fighting *[AFP]* 20
  - Army Attack in Irbil Said Repulsed *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 20
  - 'Guarded Tension' Noted; New Clashes Possible *[MENA]* 21
- Kurdish Radio on 'Expected' Regime's Attacks *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 21
- PUK Message: KDP Stance Threatens 'Historic Opportunity' *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 21
- Kurds Propose Cease to Hostilities for Vaccinations *[AFP]* 22
- Kurds Fear Being Squeezed by Iraqi-Turkish 'Pincers' *[London AL-HAYAH 5 Mar]* 22
- U.S. Blamed for Instigating Army's 'Clash' With Kurds *[INA]* 23
- Kuwaiti Radio Reports Fighting, Cites Oppositionists *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 23
- Kurdistan's Ulema Praise Government 'Initiative' *[INA]* 23
- UN Review of Sanctions, Albright Tour Viewed 24
  - U.S. Said Expecting UN Row Over Blockade *[INA]* 24
  - U.S. Offer To Discuss Resolutions Rejected *[INA]* 25
  - Albright Secretary Cited on Clinton Letters *[Baghdad Radio]* 25
  - Egyptian Criticism of Blockade Cited *[INA]* 25
- French Interests Section Opened, Officials Comment *[INA]* 26
- Country's 'Diplomatic Offensive' To Counter U.S. Cited *[INA]* 26
- 'Aziz Previews 13 Mar UN Security Council Session *[INA]* 27
  - 'Aziz Arrives in New York *[INA]* 28
- Correction to RCC Decree Prohibits Illegal Payments 28

ISRAEL

- Peres on Peace Process, 'Terrorism,' Settlements *[Hamburg DER SPIEGEL 5 Mar]* 29
- Rabin, Peres Meet CSCE Chief on NPT Signing *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
- Rabin: Relations With U.S. 'Facing a Certain Problem' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
- Rabin Hopes Christopher Visit To Lead to Syrian Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
- Rabinovich 'Convinced' Christopher Trip To 'Bring Answers' *[DAVAR 7 Mar]* 32
- Russia's Shumeyko Tours East Jerusalem Unescorted *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 32
- UK Rejects Request Not To Hold Meetings at Orient House *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
- UN Envoy Meets Lebanese, Chinese Counterparts *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
- Likud Concerned With Amman Talks on Refugees *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
- Knesset Rejects No-Confidence Motion Over Economy *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33

JORDAN

Issues for Visits of U.S., UK Officials Reported *[JORDAN TIMES 7 Mar]* 34
Officials, Commentary Condemn U.S. Decision on Debt 34
    Parliamentary Official Assails Decision *[Amman Radio]* 34
    Speaker: Decision 'Conflicts With Promises' *[AL-DUSTUR 7 Mar]* 34
    Decision Termed 'Step Against Peace' *[AL-RA'Y 7 Mar]* 35

LEBANON

Lahd Calls Israeli Security Zone Control 'Occupation' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 36
Israeli Shelling, Resistance Attack Reported *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 36
EU Stand on Israeli 'Siege' Reported *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 36
Al-Hariri Leaves for Talks With Syrian Officials *[VOL]* 36

SYRIA

Assembly Condemns Israeli 'Aggression' Against Lebanon *[Damascus Radio]* 37
Radio Commentary Ridicules Rabin Golan Proposal *[Damascus Radio]* 37
    Press Terms Proposal 'New Trial Balloon' *[Damascus Radio]* 38

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Government Forces Bombard Areas of Kabul 40
    Mazari Artillery Sites Hit Heavily *[Kabul Radio]* 40
    100 Killed or Injured in Shiite Raids *[Tehran TV]* 40
Dostam Soldiers Surrender in Samangan Province *[Kabul Radio]* 40
Council of Ministers Holds Session on Developments *[Kabul Radio]* 40
U.S. Assistance Sought With Anti-Drug Program *[Kabul Radio]* 41

Bangladesh

Total of 902 Peacekeepers Return From Somalia *[Dhaka Radio]* 41

India

Paper Requests U.S. Explanation of Uranium Bag *[JANSATTA 4 Mar]* 41
Article Examines U.S. Policy on South Asia *[INDIAN EXPRESS 7 Mar]* 42
Commentary Views Outcome of Meeting With PRC *[Delhi International]* 43
South Korean Group Plans Range of Investments *[THE ASIAN AGE 25 Feb]* 44
Russia's Zhirinovskiy, Delegation Arrives *[Delhi Radio]* 44
Progress Slow in Joint Ventures With Vietnam *[THE ECONOMIC TIMES 26 Feb]* 44
Commentary Hails 'Peace' Forum, Assails Pakistan *[Delhi International]* 45
Five Killed in Andhra Pradesh Election Violence *[Delhi Radio]* 46
First Phase of Elections Begins in Orissa *[Delhi Radio]* 46
Rao Orders Increased Subsidies, Social Spending *[BUSINESS STANDARD 27 Feb]* 46
Fate of Labor Viewed Under Economic Reforms *[THE PIONEER 7 Mar]* 47
Paper Views Apprehensions Over Rupee Devaluation *[JANSATTA 4 Mar]* 47

Iran

Dismantling of Gulf Island Missiles Said Under Way *[London AL-HAYAH 5 Mar]* 48
Naval Units on Display During Military Exercises *[IRNA]* 48
Arrested General Placed in Solitary, Denied Treatment *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 5 Mar]* 48
Embassy Refutes Spanish Daily's Allegations of Torture *[IRNA]* 49
MKO 'Terrorists' Trial Set for 15 Mar *[IRNA]* 49
Radio Examines Recent Iraqi Fighting *[Tehran International]* 49
Azerbaijan's Fuel Oil Allegedly Supplied to Armenia *[Istanbul HURRIYET 26 Feb]* 50

Official Refutes Caspian Oil Share Statement *[SALAM 15 Feb]* 50
Commentary Views Scope of Slovakian Visit *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Various Ministerial Appointments Announced *[KEYHAN-E HAVA'I 30 Nov]* 51
    Further Office Appointments *[KEYHAN-E HAVA'I 28 Dec]* 52
Rafsanjani Opens First Stage of Qom Power Station *[Tehran TV]* 52
Radio Cites Benefits of New Khordad Dam *[Tehran Radio]* 52
Bafq-Bandar-e Abbas Railway Project Completed *[Tehran TV]* 53
Oil Ministry Notes Increase in Gas Production *[IRNA]* 53
NIGC Official Cited on Natural Gas Exports, Plans *[HAMSHAHRI 27 Feb]* 53
300 Billion Rials To Be Spent on Fishing Ports *[IRNA]* 54
Fishery Cooperation Agreement Signed With France *[IRNA]* 55

Pakistan

Important Shi'ite Leader Shot Dead in Lahore *[AFP]* 55
Qureshi Offers To Mediate With Opposition *[THE MUSLIM 6 Mar]* 55
Spokesman Accuses India of Involvement in Bombing Attempt *[Islamabad TV]* 56
Japanese Firms To Invest in Power Project in Lahore *[BUSINESS RECORDER 27 Feb]* 56
South African Navy Ship Arrives in Karachi *[Johannesburg TV]* 56
Editorial Views Current Events in Middle East *[THE MUSLIM 6 Mar]* 56

Sri Lanka

LTTE Warned of 'Alternate Measures' If Talks Fail *[Colombo International]* 57

Arab-Israeli Talks

Conflicting Accounts of 'Arafat Saddam-Rabin 'Mediation'

MM0603152295 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Mar 95 pp1, 4

[Report by Mahmud Abu-'Id: "Palestinian Denial and Israeli Confirmation of 'Arafat Mediation Between Saddam and Rabin"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Occupied Jerusalem —There were conflicting reports yesterday about the claim that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat conveyed an oral message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin speaking of Iraqi willingness to sign a peace agreement with Israel.

Whereas Israeli Army radio said that 'Arafat did indeed convey such a message, including Iraq's agreement to establish diplomatic relations with Israel in return for Israeli efforts to lift the international sanctions against Iraq, Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, the Palestinian president's official spokesman, denied that 'Arafat conveyed any oral or written message from the Iraqi president. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Abu-Rudaynah said that the meeting held between 'Arafat and Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal, during which the message was claimed to have been delivered, only covered pending Palestinian-Israeli issues plus 'Id al-Fitr greetings from Rabin to 'Arafat.

Hasan 'Usfur, director general of the Palestinian delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, had told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that "Arafat did receive a message from Saddam Husayn—which Abu-Rudaynah did not deny—but it was a message of 'Id al-Fitr greetings and had absolutely nothing to do with a request for mediation between Iraq and Israel." [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Official Criticizes Peres' Remarks on NPT

NC0403191495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 4 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Mar (MENA)—Ambassador 'Adnan 'Imran, assistant Arab League secretary general for political and international affairs, has denounced Israel's refusal to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT].

'Imran pointed out that Israel began to fabricate justifications and excuses to maintain its nuclear arsenal when it sensed that Arabs were succeeding in showing the Israeli intransigence and the risks its nuclear policy poses to regional security. He described Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' remark that Israel does not believe in the NPT as another blunder added to Israel's continued mistakes and mixed-up logic concerning the NPT. In a statement to MENA in reaction to the Iranian excuse that Israel uses to justify its refusal to sign the treaty, Ambassador 'Imran pointed out that the Arab position favors the development of a Middle Eastern regional treaty that involves Israel and Iran.

The assistant secretary general added that the Arab position on that regional treaty refutes the Israeli excuse about Iran, adding that under the regional treaty and the international controls that prohibit nuclear proliferation, no regional state will become a nuclear power.

Commenting on Peres' remark that fundamentalism undermines the regional peace process, Ambassador 'Imran said that Israel knows very well that Israel itself was founded on an extremist, fundamentalist doctrine. All the crimes committed since 1948 were committed in the context of a religious, fundamentalist, and fanatic dogma, including the frenzied settlement policy and the policy of displacing the people, oppression, terrorism, and claiming the ownership of the whole of Jerusalem, he said.

He pointed out that the Arab position has been clear from the outset when it called for a united, democratic Palestinian state in which people of all religions and sects are treated equally. He noted that Israel has rejected that.

Ambassador 'Adnan 'Imran underlined the need to distinguish between fundamentalism and terrorism, pointing out that fundamentalism accurately means returning to the fundamentals and not terrorism, particularly since Islam with its great and tolerant principles rejects all forms of violence and terrorism. He explained that terrorism is a different line of conduct pursued by some people who are far from fundamentalism and the true principles of Islam. He added that such people constitute more power centers in Israel than in any other regional state.

'Imran referred to the crime an Israeli officer committed in the Ibrahimi Sanctuary during Ramadan of last year, killing a large number of worshipers. He emphasized that this crime was clear evidence to the terrorism that is deeply entrenched in the structure of the Israeli community.

He added that the terrorist was regarded as a national hero by many Israelis, even at the official level, which called for sympathy for him.

'Imran remarked that the charge Peres tries to make against others reflects irresponsibility as well as lack of accuracy. He just wants to justify his country's refusal to sign the NPT, 'Imran said.

Libya Declines UMA Presidency; Algeria To Continue

LD0503174695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] After the Libyan Jamahiriyah had announced its decision to decline the assumption of the periodic presidency of the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA], [Algerian] head of state Liamine Zeroual, the current UMA president, immediately embarked on political consultations by sending special envoys to the leaders of the union's member states to explore their views about the rotation of the presidency of the union.

The collective view was that Algeria should continue to carry out the tasks of the presidency of the union until the end of the current year.

A statement by the Foreign Ministry stressed that Algeria's readiness to continue performing its duty toward the Maghreban march was an indication of its adherence to this strategic project, which it considers among the national priorities.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 24 Feb

NC0403155395

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 24 February edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Receivership Order Against Engineers Union Protested
2. Writer Calls for Deterrent to Israeli Nuclear Force
3. Security Campaigns Said Targeting Lawyers, Students in Mallawi
4. Labor's Husayn Foresees Success in Elections
5. Saudi Arabia Said Banning Donations to Muslims Abroad

RECEIVERSHIP ORDER AGAINST ENGINEERS UNION PROTESTED

A 1,500-word news report on pages 1 and 6 by Qutb al-'Arabi, 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad, and Khalid Yunus reports unionists' reactions yesterday, 23 February, to a court order placing the Engineers Association in receivership. This sparked numerous appeals to several courts to halt the implementation of the receivership. Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Bishr, president of the Engineers Association, held a news conference announcing that the order is impossible to carry out because the association "is comprised of public properties, more than 40 specialized technical committees, and numerous projects, each with its own management." He said the association has a supreme council that has not been dissolved, and no court can dissolve it without contravening Associations Law 66 of 1974. The Engineers Association Supreme Council issued a statement saying that the receivership order means the council's dissolution by illegal means. It also challenged the court's jurisdiction to rule on this matter. The Professional Associations Coordination Committee meeting of 22 February issued a statement declaring that the measures which had been put into motion to obtain a court order placing the Engineers Association in receivership "is the climax of the government's campaign of oppression against the professional associations." Noting that the Engineers Association is the largest professional union, the Coordination Committee said that obtaining a receivership order against it "constitutes a declaration of war against all Egyptian professional associations and comes as a shock to many citizens, whether they are professional association members or not."

The Coordination Committee said that "there are many signs that the series of receivership orders will continue and include other professional associations."

WRITER CALLS FOR DETERRENT TO ISRAELI NUCLEAR FORCE

In a 3,000-word article on page 5, under the headline "They Built Their Nuclear Power by Prior Planning and Secrecy; We Can Do the Same," Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn reviews the history of the Israeli nuclear "arsenal," its likely targets and objectives, and the need to prepare an Arab and Islamic deterrent to it.

He cites past occasions when Israel was ready to use nuclear weapons, including the 1973 war with Egypt and the Gulf War, when Israel readied nuclear missiles for use against Egypt and Iraq respectively.

Drawing largely on Seymour Hersch's 1991 book "The Samson Option," Husayn recaps the birth of Israel's nuclear program with French assistance in the early 1950's, its secretive development over the years, its resistance to U.S. demands for inspection of the Dimona reactor, and the apparently intentional disclosure of Israel's possession of nuclear bombs.

Husayn refers to Hersch's report about the escape of an Israeli scientist, who told the United States that Israel had 100 nuclear devices and the subsequent revelations made by the technician Vanunu. Husayn adds: "Probably these moves were an attempt to leak informally an announcement of the extent of Israel's nuclear power so that all parties would base their calculations on this fact."

Citing Hersch's assertion that, in technical terms, Israel is equal to the Americans or Soviets, Husayn asks: "Why have the Israelis built such a nuclear force? This is a very good question because the purpose cannot be to destroy Cairo or any Arab country. That would require something less than this arsenal and might indeed require no nuclear weapons at all. Why then?"

Husayn goes on to cite references in "The Samson Option" showing that Israel's nuclear stockpile was meant to "deter" the Soviet Union from helping the Arabs and notes that after the USSR's collapse Israel's nuclear bombs became a message to other world powers, including the United States.

In calling for an Arab nuclear force, Husayn says: "We are thus faced by a real danger that leaves no room for levity. The danger is greater because the enemies possess no moral values that prevent the massive extermination of people and the killing of innocents. Their racial arrogance justifies such a course of action to them and keeps them from seeing themselves as evil 'terrorists.' Did you not see how the United States allowed itself to perpetrate a crime of extermination against the yellow race? The use of atomic bombs against Japan was not militarily justified, because according to all reports, Japan had already decided to surrender without the need to use the bomb and exterminate innocents."

He adds: "Those people, particularly the Zionists, have no moral inhibitions and are deterred from using weapons of mass destruction only by their fear of retaliation. Their reason for trying to disarm us is to gain a free hand to humiliate us or kill us en masse."

Noting that the difficulties in obtaining unconventional weapons have more to do with international relations and politics than with technical matters, he says that the Arabs can do the same thing as the Israelis and exploit international disputes to further their aims. He elaborates on this point: "Current international conditions can be very helpful to us. In addition to the current confusion—particularly in Russia and its surrounding area—numerous other powers have made it clear that they share our worries over the growth of the Israeli nuclear force. Consequently these powers have an interest in imposing controls on this Israeli force, and some of these powers might help us to acquire deterrent weapons."

He concludes: "Our ability to benefit from the current favorable conditions—as Israel did in the past—depends on our success in establishing a strong struggler state that can keep its secrets intact. This can only be done by empowering the current Islamic revival."

SECURITY CAMPAIGNS SAID TARGETING LAWYERS, STUDENTS IN MALLAWI

A 2,000-word report by Ahmad Mahjub on page 2 concerns security campaigns in Upper Egypt's Mallawi District in al-Minya Governorate. Under the headline "The Security Forces Have Turned Mallawi Into a Hell: The Campaign Extends to Lawyers In the Wake of the Arrest of Students," Mahjub tells of the security forces' pursuit of lawyers suspected of having connections with the Islamic Group and their physical abuse at the hands of police officers.

The writer recounts the beating up of lawyer Khalid Muhammad Radwan in al-Rawdah village by a police officer and his subsequent release by another officer. He tells how the lawyers' rescuer later refused to testify about the incident.

Another lawyer, Husam Fu'ad Rashwan, is reported to be in custody after his name was found among the papers of Mahmud al-Sayyid Salim, a recently deceased Islamic Group member.

Mahjub reports that in the wake of a 4 February attack on a police vehicle in the town of Mallawi, during which the driver was killed and several policemen injured, the security forces imposed a night curfew, carried out indiscriminate arrests of students, and tried to force shopkeepers to act as police informants.

The writer wonders why the assassinations of security personnel continue and why the attackers always succeed in fleeing although the police arrest "every bearded person and every member of the Islamic Group." He says that at the same time Islamic Group leaders fall dead in police operations in which no clashes take place. He asks if this is some sort of farce and if indeed Islamic Group figures die while in police custody.

The report proposes a dialogue between the authorities and the Islamic Group. The writer quotes Sa'd Hasan 'Abd-al-Salam, an elementary school principal in Mallawi, one of whose brothers is an Islamic Group member currently in detention and another brother is chairman of the Islamic Center in Romania, as saying that there is no family in Egypt which does not have a son who is either a policeman or an Islamic Group member. 'Abd-al-Salam is cited as asking: Who benefits from the orders to shoot Islamic Group members? Why not carry out a dialogue with them?

LABOR'S HUSAYN FORESEES SUCCESS IN ELECTIONS

A 1,000-word report by Jamal Imbabi on page 6 recounts a Labor Party rally in Awsim in al-Jizah Governorate and cites remarks by the Labor Party's 'Adil Husayn. Husayn blames the Egyptian Government for Israel's success in developing its nuclear program after the 1973 October war, saying "the Zionists exploited Egypt's eagerness to sign a peace treaty with them and hastened to develop their nuclear program."

Husayn criticizes the Egyptian economy's reliance on unproductive sectors like the Suez Canal revenues and tourism while neglecting agriculture and industry.

He defends the slogan "Islam Is the Solution," noting that it was set forth in detail during a recent Labor Party congress.

The report adds: "The secretary general referred to the strength of the Muslims and the Arabs, and the new signs testifying to it. Formerly, the enemies used to strike us without fear of response but they are now very afraid of our retaliation because we are no longer a corpse. He referred to the martyrdom operations in the occupied territories which forced Israel—for the first time since its colonization of the area—to think of building fences around all the settlements. The Zionists' panic reached a point not reached by regular armies since 1948. He referred to the U.S. defeat in Somalia when the Americans fled after the killing of only 10 U.S. soldiers even though they had originally come to stay and dominate. They fled because they fear death and love life."

The report recounts Husayn's remarks about Labor Party's plans to use the next legislative elections "to get our rights, confront the vote riggers, and paralyze the ruling party's ability to falsify the results." Husayn is quoted as saying: "The signs point to our ability to overthrow them. They are confused because the Islamic trend dominates the public's hearts and minds."

SAUDI ARABIA SAID BANNING DONATIONS TO MUSLIMS ABROAD

A 150-word report on page 8 says that Saudi Arabia, like Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates before it, has dissolved charitable alms-collection societies and established substitute societies under the royal family's patronage. Noting that the donations used to be sent to the "needy and disaster-stricken Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia, Chechnya, and other places," the report says this measure was adopted "in response to security requests, particularly from Egypt, to halt the collection of donations on the grounds that they are a source of the funds that feed extremism and terrorism."

The report notes that "an allegation was made that the donations do not go to those who deserve them but are sent to violent groups."

The report concludes: "It has been noticed that this Saudi measure coincided with U.S. President Clinton's decision to freeze the assets of Islamic individuals and groups who oppose the so-called Middle East peace process."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Reportedly To Establish Palestinian Government

JN0703110195 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 6 Mar 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza—AL-MUHARRIR—Responsible Palestinian and Arab sources have said that, in a daring step, Yasir 'Arafat has decided to establish a Palestinian government headed by a prominent figure, for which these sources nominated Palestinian businessman Sabih al-Masri.

It is believed that the Palestinian president's objective is to be liberated from direct, daily work responsibility, its difficulties, and demands to shoulder the burden of the political action so as to achieve better conditions within the framework of the Oslo accord, or even to amend these conditions if possible for the interest of a Palestinian state in the future.

In this new form he is adopting, 'Arafat would become a point of reference and arbiter instead of being the Palestinian national opposition's first target. He would also maintain his connections with the Palestinian opposition as a strategic alternative that would free Palestinian will from continuous Israeli pressure.

'Arafat To Chair Tunis Fatah Meetings

JN0703080895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 7 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat will chair Fatah Central Committee meetings to be held in Tunis in the next few days. Faruq Qaddumi and Hakam Bal'awi, members of the Fatah Central Committee, have said that preparations are under way in the Tunisian capital to hold these meetings under President Yasir 'Arafat to discuss the Palestinian-Israeli talks.

'Arafat Receives Donor State, UNRWA Delegation

JN0603210595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat received a delegation comprising representatives from the donor states and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA] at the presidency in Gaza city today.

During the meeting, they discussed financial aid to the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] in various fields and the recent developments of the peace process.

(Claus Worm), UNRWA director in the Gaza Strip, explained that they discussed the activities of and aid extended by the donor states and UNRWA to the PNA.

For her part, April Glaspie, former U.S. ambassador to Iraq and member of the donor state delegation, described the meeting as important and fruitful.

'Arafat Speaks at Funeral of 'Martyr'

JN0603093895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat took part in the funeral ceremony of the martyr teacher Usamah Nur al-Burnu, who was killed by Israeli troops two days ago. The brother president offered his condolences and those of the Palestinian leadership and people to the martyr's father and family. He was received at the funeral ceremony by a large number of the al-Burnu family. The president was accompanied by the Chief Justice His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Abu-Sardanah and a number of his advisers and Palestinian cadres.

The president and his escorts then went to the house of the martyr and offered their condolences.

[Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic at 0800 GMT carries a recording of a short speech by 'Arafat at the funeral ceremony, in which he eulogizes the "martyr" and says: O, hero martyr, the pledge is the pledge and the oath is the oath we will press ahead with this march until our country's children raise the Palestinian flag on the walls, minarets, and churches of Jerusalem."]

Al-Husayni: Orient House Closure Would End Peace Process

TA0703103695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 7 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal al-Husayni says that if Israel closes down Orient House in East Jerusalem the peace process will end. Al-Husayni told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the peace process, not just with the Palestinians, but with all the Arab sides in the Middle East, will end if Israel makes such a move.

PA Officials Accuse Israel of Obstructing DOP

JN0503201495 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Mar 95

[Report by Basim Abu-Sumayyah in the "occupied territories"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Two Palestinian Authority [PA] officials have accused Israel of obstructing the practical aspects of the Declaration of Principles [DOP]. Both officials said that the statements by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, in which he threatened not to pursue the negotiations, are a serious violation of the DOP.

In statements to the press following the PA Council of Ministers weekly session today, Culture Minister Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said: We clearly sense that Israel wants to cancel the peace process and tries to find excuses to do so. Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, said that Israel has frozen all aspects of the negotiations.

Both PA officials explained that the PA will communicate this to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during his forthcoming meeting with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in Gaza on 10 March. 'Arafat and Christopher will also discuss security issues having to do with the situation of the PA in the self-rule areas.

Christopher begins a new tour of the Middle East on 8 March to activate the negotiations between Israel and each of Syria and the PLO.

A Palestinian official announced that President 'Arafat will meet Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Gaza on Thursday to prepare for the forthcoming meeting between 'Arafat and Israeli Prime minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the end of this month. The meeting will try to expedite negotiations concerning the second stage of the DOP.

Sha'th Previews Amman Meeting on Refugees

NC0603081495 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 6 Mar 95

[Telephone interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority, in Gaza, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Jundi] Meetings at the foreign-ministerial level between Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, and Israel open in Amman tomorrow to discuss the problem of the displaced Palestinians [who left the West Bank and Gaza after their occupation in 1967]. Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the meetings, good morning and welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Sha'th] Thank you.

[Al-Jundi] The Palestinian delegation will undoubtedly make specific, major demands during the meeting. Does the Palestinian side see a possibility for settling the problem of the displaced Palestinians at this meeting, which is the second of its kind?

[Sha'th] Actually, this is the first meeting of its kind, considering the attendance of the Israeli foreign minister, and the second of its kind as far as the Arab ministers are concerned. [passage omitted]

This meeting is the first of its kind in terms of Israel's recognition of the right to return for those who left [the West Bank and Gaza] after the 1967 war. The Declaration of Principles, which was reached in Oslo and signed in Washington, includes an item on the right of these people to return. The four-way meeting is supposed to discuss the methods of return and assess the right to return for those who left before the war and were unable to return because of the war, and those who left after the war and the Israeli authorities prevented them from returning. So, we have the questions of numbers, return procedure, and the timetable needed for the return.

[Al-Jundi] Israel claims that it cannot absorb these numbers.

[Sha'th] We are talking about the people who left the West Bank and Gaza. Unlike the refugees who left in 1948, these people will return to the West Bank and Gaza, and Israel has nothing to do with this. These are occupied territories.

[Al-Jundi] Israel says the return of Palestinians will change the demographic status.

[Sha'th] [passage omitted] Israel cannot deny the right to return for any of those who were expelled from their lands. We will not allow this kind of discussion. The text in the Declaration of Principles is clear. We will discuss only the procedures for return, not the right to return. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jundi] Dr. Sha'th, the conferees in the Amman meeting tomorrow will undoubtedly discuss the difficulties facing the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. Can we say that the meeting will help break the ice around the negotiations?

[Sha'th] The problem is difficult, my brother, and this difficulty was created by the Israelis, who paralyzed the process in its second phase; namely, the deployment in the West Bank. If Israel shows serious intentions of making progress in tomorrow's meeting, then the meeting, no doubt, will create a positive climate that would help us make progress in the peace process as a whole. The peace process, in fact, is based on Israeli withdrawal and Palestinian return. This return, then, is a main part of the peace process. If Israel advances the process through tomorrow's meeting, then this will create confidence about progress in the process. Otherwise, the problem, in fact, is so difficult that Arab and international pressure is needed to advance the peace process. [passage omitted]

Further on Sha'th Remarks

JN0603111895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0800 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the National Authority [NA], will head for the Jordanian capital, Amman, after a short while to take part in the quadrilateral meeting slated for tomorrow. The meeting will discuss the issue of Palestinians who were displaced in 1967. More details on the meeting in the following interview held with Dr. Nabil Sha'th by our colleague Jamal Mi'ari:

[Begin recording] [Mi'ari] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the NA, good morning.

[Sha'th] Good morning brother.

[Mi'ari] Dr. Nabil, today you will leave the homeland for Amman to participate in the quadrilateral committee meeting that will be held in Amman tomorrow at the ministerial level, with Palestine, Egypt, Jordan, and Israel represented to discuss the issue of persons displaced since 1967. What are you going to discuss in this meeting?

[Sha'th] This is the first meeting of the quadrilateral committee provided for in the Oslo agreement. The committee seeks to draft measures needed to secure the repatriation of the refugees who left Palestine in the wake of the 1967 war. In fact, it was agreed to hold this meeting after long procrastination on the part of the Israelis. This meeting was prepared for in the meeting of the foreign ministers of Palestine, Jordan, and Egypt in Cairo. Now, this meeting will start the historical process of the repatriation of the Palestinian people who were displaced from or left the West Bank.

[Mi'ari] Dr. Nabil, it is known that many meetings were held between Palestine, Jordan, and Egypt. Reports say that a common Arab working paper will be submitted during tomorrow's meeting. What is the nature of this paper?

[Sha'th] In fact, it translates the Declaration of Principles agreement regarding this point. It clearly states that the principle of repatriation of these displaced persons is one that is acknowledged and agreed upon. The question is solely related to their repatriation and the measures and timetable of this repatriation. The paper also contains criterion for determining the eligibility of the displaced persons to return. In fact, we are determined that those who were outside Palestine when the 1967 war broke out and could not return due to war are entitled to repatriation. Also entitled to repatriation are those who left after the 1967 war and were registered in the civil status records prior to 1967 and could not comeback for one reason or another, particularly due to the Israeli authority's intransigence. We will also call for drawing a financial plan to facilitate the return of these displaced persons to Palestine expeditiously.

[Mi'ari] Dr. Nabil, there is talk about criteria, standards, and priorities regarding those who wish to return to Palestine. What is the nature of these criteria and standards?

[Sha'th] Actually, we do not have criteria and standards other than those I mentioned to you. Those who were registered in Palestine and were abroad when the 1967 war erupted and could not return due to war and those who left after war and could not comeback owing to the Israeli intransigence [are entitled to return to the West Bank]. These are the only criteria. We do not have any other criteria as to classify people according to who came from Gaza and who came from the West Bank or who has or does not have assets. All these criteria are unacceptable, in fact.

[Mi'ari] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the NA, thank you very much. [end recording]

Ex-PLO Intelligence Chief Faces Arrest on Return to Gaza

MM0603134395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Mar 95 p4

[Report by 'Ali al-Salih: "Musa 'Arafat: Abu-al-Za'im Will Return to Gaza; al-Rujub: His Return Would Cause Palestinian Sedition"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—A senior Palestinian security official has threatened to arrest 'Atallah 'Atallah, known as Abu-al-Za'im, as soon as he arrives in the autonomy areas.

The official was answering a question about the possibility of Abu-al-Za'im's return to the autonomy areas to assume the task of coordination between the Palestinian security organs in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Jibril al-Rujub, head of Palestinian preventive security in the Jericho area, has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "That is not true. If that happens I would arrest him because his entry would result in Palestinian sedition and Abu-al-Za'im himself would be the first victim of it."

However, Musa 'Arafat, chief of military intelligence in Gaza, has confirmed that Abu-al-Za'im will return to Gaza but said that it is unlikely that he will resume work in the security organs. Musa 'Arafat told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "Abu-al-Za'im cannot possibly return to the Palestinian security organs because his past actions would not allow that. If forgiven, he might be appointed as adviser in some other field." It should be noted here that Abu-al-Za'im broke away from the PLO in 1986 and formed an organization in the Jordanian capital Amman. Musa 'Arafat said that his [Abu-al-Za'im's] return was the result of Arab mediation at a very high level.

Some Palestinian sources had said that Abu-al-Za'im would soon return to the PLO ranks and the autonomy areas now that Israel has agreed to it.

The sources also said that King Husayn of Jordan and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat agreed on the return of Abu-al-Za'im, who was the PLO's chief of military intelligence before it left Beirut.

Internal 'Crisis' Said To Split Fatah, Delay Elections

TA0603074695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] There is a crisis in the Fatah organization in the territories. Fatah operatives in the West Bank said that personal rivalries have split the movement and caused the postponement of internal elections.

Samir Subayhat, a member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that all the organization's activists are demanding that the Fatah Central Committee be convened to discuss the internal situation. Subayhat called on all Central Committee members currently abroad to return to the territories to help reorganize the movement.

Yasir 'Arafat may convene the Fatah Central Committee next week in Tunis to discuss the deadlock in the peace process and the current state of affairs within the organization.

Hamas Activist Arrested for Anti-PA Sermon

TA0503095695 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Mar 95 p A3

[Report by 'Amira Hess]

[FBIS Translated Text] Two days ago, Palestinian security personnel arrested Salama al-Safadi, a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activist who occasionally preaches at Gaza's Filastin Mosque. Al-Safadi was arrested several hours after he delivered a Friday sermon at the mosque in which he lashed out at the Palestinian Authority [PA] for holding dozens of opposition activists in custody while disregarding legal procedures. He described the cells in which some of the detainees are being held, comparing their prison conditions with those that prevailed during the Israeli occupation, and called on his audience not to accept such phenomena.

This is the second time a Hamas member has been arrested after making a speech critical of the PA. The daily AL-QUDS and AL-NAHAR papers generally refrain from publishing opposition claims regarding arrests and the conditions and treatment of detainees. The only paper that carries such reports is the Hamas-affiliated AL-WATAN, and leaflets by the opposition and human rights organizations distributed in the Gaza Strip occasionally mention this. For this reason, the mosque sermon has become one of the main platforms for expressing public criticism of the PA.

Salama al-Safadi, a tradesman, served five years in Israeli prisons during the intifadah for his activity on behalf of Hamas.

At the same time, the PA released Yasir Husayn, an 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam activist, after 10 days in detention. The PA also released Islamic Jihad activist 'Ala' al-Saftawi, son of As'ad al- Saftawi, a Fatah activist who was murdered after the Oslo agreement was signed. 'Ala' al-Saftawi was arrested along with other Islamic Jihad activists after the Bet Lid attack. He was arrested at his workplace, the press office that publishes the weekly AL-ISTIQLAL, which had been closed down but was allowed to reopen last week.

'Abd-Rabbuh Questioned About Arrest

NC0603231195 London MBC Television in Arabic 2100 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian police have arrested two clerics belonging to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and two other individuals wanted by the Israelis on charges of killing collaborators during Israel's occupation of the Gaza Strip.

Hamas spokesman 'Imad Al-Faluji explained that the police arrested Shaykh Salamah al-Safadi, a resident of Gaza City, and Shaykh Ahmad Nimr from the Khan Yunus refugee camp after they delivered sermons last Friday [3 March] during which they denounced the PLO and accused President Yasir 'Arafat of submitting to Israeli demands.

To inquire about the self-rule authority's motive in arresting the two shaykhs we telephoned Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, the official in charge of culture and information in the Palestinian Authority [PA], and asked him about the official explanation for this action.

[Begin recording] ['Abd-Rabbuh] Actually, some matters need to be clarified with several clerics. There has been an attempt to involve the mosques in politics and turn them into pulpits advocating a particular political trend. This contradicts the generally accepted rule that mosques should be open to all those who wish to worship but not to those who wish to make political propaganda for a particular trend.

[Announcer Antoine 'Awn] Mr. Yasir, the two arrested shaykhs have not perpetrated any terrorist action. Their sermons expressed a certain view, namely their rejection of the self-rule agreements. Does your PA object to freedom of expression?

['Abd-Rabbuh] No, this is not the reason at all. Freedom to express one's position such as opposing a particular agreement or PA decisions is being carried out in a public and frank way without any trouble. It is done in all pulpits and spheres, via the media and by various political activities.

['Awn] Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, thank you.

['Abd-Rabbuh] Don't mention it. [end recording]

Correction to PA Member Views Oslo Agreement

WA0703135195

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "PA Member Views Oslo Agreement, PA Role, Hamas," published in the 6 March Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 5:

Please make headline read: PLO Figure on Oslo Agreement, PA Role, Hamas...(correcting description of interviewee)

Algeria

GIA Threatens Belgium Over Arrest of Islamists

LD0403103395 Paris LCI Television in French 1000 GMT 4 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The GIA, the Armed Islamic Group, has warned Belgium following the dismantling of an Islamic network by the Belgian police and the discovery of a big arms cache this week.

The GIA has asked the Belgian authorities to release the Islamists they arrested during this operation.

Arrest Warrants Issued for 2 Newspaper Directors

LD0403085795 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 4 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Algerian authorities have issued arrest warrants for two directors of privately owned newspapers. They are Omar Belhouchet of EL WATAN and Cherif Arezki of EL KHABAR.

They are accused by the government of publishing false information and undermining state institutions after the publication of articles on a fraud case concerning medical equipment imported from France and the mutiny at the Serkadji prison in Algiers.

MAP Details Charges

LD0403165895 Rabat MAP in English 1345 GMT 4 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algiers. Mar. 04 (MAP)—Directors of two Algerian dailies, "EL WATAN" and "EL KHABAR", Omar Belhouchet and Cherif Rezki, were summoned twice to hearing sessions by the investigating magistrate following a government complaint on breach and defamation to constituent bodies", the Algerian journalists corporation said.

EL WATAN ran a story on the purchase of scanners for the health department questioning the role of the department in the transaction, while EL KHABAR said, concerning the Serkadji prison escape attempt thwarted and which left around 100 detainees dead, that the justice department "has always assumed its duty and never resigned" in other prison escapes and the deaths entailed. The corporation added the two directors will be heard a third time this week.

On the other hand, "EL OUMA" daily was suspended last Saturday owing to failure to pay accumulated editing fees standing at about 100,000 dollars, the Algerian publishing (SIA) house said. The SIA also asks the daily's manager to pay editing fees [words indistinct] the no longer circulating "SIMSAR" paper. The resumption of the publication of EL OUMA depends on the paying of all the sums incurred.

LA TRIBUNE Daily Suspended 'Until Further Notice'

LD0503140195 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 5 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The independent daily LA TRIBUNE was suspended on 5 March until further notice by the prefect of Algiers on behalf of the interior minister. The reason given for the suspension was the failure to print the title in Arabic, according to the chief editor of the newspaper.

It must be pointed out that the information code, which was promulgated in 1990 and is still valid, stipulates that every publication [as heard] in a foreign language must be followed by another in Arabic.

Airport in Jijel Province Reopened, Renamed

LD0403175995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Boeing 737 will try to land in the new terminal at Lachouat Airport in the province of Jijel [some 10 miles east of Jijel town]. A sum of 14 billion centimes [140 million dinars] has been allocated to provide the airport with the necessary technical equipment in a bid to alleviate the problems facing Jijel's air passengers.

Lachouat Airport, which is situated in Tahir municipality, will be renamed, when it reopens the day after tomorrow, after Ferhat Abbas, the first prime minister of the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic.

Egypt

Musa on Rabin's Remarks, Christopher's Visit

NC0603170695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has criticized Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks yesterday in which he stated that Syria must be tested under the peace process. In remarks today, Musa stated that this stand is unacceptable and that no country can be put to a test. He added: If there has to be a test, then all parties must be put to a test. He added: The test that exists on the Palestinian-Israeli track is one that we are afraid the two parties will fail.

Regarding the meeting of the foreign ministers of Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, and Israel tomorrow in Amman, Musa noted that the question of the displaced persons is one of the important issues that has to be tackled. He added that this issue constitutes a problem that needs to be resolved fast to secure the return of the 1967 displaced persons. He pointed out that the question of the 1948 refugees is a separate matter that is being discussed at the Refugees Committee of the multilateral talks. He added that at tomorrow's meeting attention will focus on the displaced persons' right to return, their number, the method of return, and a specific procedure to secure this return. Musa stressed that the principle of the return of the displaced persons to the Palestinian territories is not negotiable. The discussion, he added, will focus on the procedures for their return and the timetable needed for this.

On U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region, which will begin on Wednesday [8 March], Musa said that Egypt hopes that Christopher's new tour will result in a breakthrough, particularly since the Palestinian-Israeli track has almost reached a stalemate, something that may affect the entire peace process. He added that Egypt hopes that Christopher's visit as well as the scheduled contacts between the Palestinians and Israelis will lead to a breakthrough. He noted that Egypt will listen to Christopher's views and discuss proposals for giving impetus to the peace process on all tracks. Cairo, he added, will explain its views and give an analysis of the situation. He stressed that the main purpose of the tour is to activate the peace process, put it on course, and fully implement what has been agreed upon in the peace process.

On another matter, Musa pointed out that the question of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] will be one of the subjects to be discussed with Secretary Christopher during his Cairo visit. He noted that there is no dispute between Egypt and the United States over the universality and importance of the NPT. He added that the dispute is between Egypt and Israel. It is about regional security and the process of disarmament as part of a future vision to secure the region and reach an acceptable and practical system for setting up a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, he added. Musa pointed out that proposals exist and contacts are under way to establish a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. He noted that he prefers not to go into the details of these proposals and contacts.

Asked about Egypt's proposals regarding the NPT, Musa said that Egypt had advanced a number of ideas for discussion. However, he added, these ideas have not yet been agreed upon and have not yet been discussed thoroughly.

Regarding the situation in Somalia, the foreign minister concluded his remarks that he does not believe that the UN troops have withdrawn from Somalia to return there once again. The situation now depends on the Somali factions and militia and their bid to set up their own government and state, he concluded.

Musa Confers With U.S. Ambassador on State Visits

NC0603141395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Mar (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is due in Cairo tomorrow evening on the first leg of a tour that will take him to several countries in the region.

This was stated by U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Edward Walker following his meeting with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today. The ambassador said that President Muhammad Husni Mubarak will receive Christopher on Thursday morning. The U.S. secretary will also hold talks with 'Amr Musa concerning the peace process in the region.

In his statements, the U.S. ambassador added that his talks with Musa also dealt with U.S. Vice President Al Gore's three-day visit to Cairo, slated to begin on 19 March. Gore will hold talks with President Mubarak dealing with the means to promote Egyptian-U.S. relations in the various fields, particularly economic relations, and the Middle East situation.

U.S. Stand on Peace Process Losing 'Credibility'

NC0603213295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Mar (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR criticizes the U.S. stance on the Middle East peace process and notes that its role as a full partner in these negotiations has started to lose its credibility.

In its editorial tomorrow, Tuesday [7 March], the paper says that it has become evident that the role of the full partner played by the United States in the peace negotiations is limited to carrying messages between the various parties without making any effort to convince its main ally in the region, Israel, to comply with the principles of peace and international legitimacy.

It adds: Despite the shuttle tours made by former secretaries of state and current Secretary of State Christopher Warren under the aegis of exerting their goodwill efforts, yet all these tours have resulted in nothing and only made the Israeli side more intransigent and arrogant.

AL-AKHBAR then says that Israel's desire for peace is only air bubbles made by Yitzhaq Rabin from time to time and adds that it was helped in this by the quiet U.S. stance on achieving a comprehensive and just peace in the region.

Ex-Defense Minister on National Security Theory

95LD0029A Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 9 Jan 95 p 8

[Article by Amin Huwaydi, former defense minister and intelligence chief]

[FBIS Translated Text] Before the end of this century, we could find ourselves facing a different map of the Middle East in terms of political geography and regional relations. Two states will be added to the map: Israel, which has been unrecognized, and Palestine, which has been absent and buried. The relations among the regional states will also witness a sharp change. The nucleus, I think, will be the "golden triangle," as it was called by Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan, or the "flourishing triangle," as it was called by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Jordan, Israel, and the Palestinian self-rule area will form this triangle. Upon a closer examination of the map, we can see that this triangle will probably be a dagger in the heart of the Arab nation, a barrier separating the Arab states in the north and east from those in the south and west, or it could be a bridge for new relations that could produce new regional groupings, replacing the traditional national groupings. This could be only if no concrete changes take place in the Arab world, no attempt is made by the Arab states to reshape their relations, and no effort is made to restore the spirit of collective Arab action to safeguard Arab interests and identity.

Amid these anticipated developments, we must ask about the meaning of national security. People are expressing different views about this topic; some are ignoring the current and future changes and upholding the principles of the traditional game; others are attempting to deal with these changes with various degrees of caution that accompanies any movement toward the unknown.

National security, which is designed to achieve security for the country and people, is a firm and unchangeable concept. However, changes are possible in policies and methods if changes take place on the international, regional, and national levels. National security concepts are based on three firm and important principles, principles that define national security's policies and methods and that pose a real problem to the decision-maker: Whose security? Against whom? Through whom?

The answers to these three questions must complement each other, like links in a solid chain. National security will be violated and unattainable if one of the links is broken. It will be exposed and threatened with serious consequences.

Let us begin with the first link, which is whose security? Is it the security of the country, the security of the citizen, or the security of the regime? In my opinion, it is the security of the three together, particularly if the regime is legitimate in the known sense of the word. This concept places a serious responsibility on the decision-maker: He is faced with what is known as the triple dilemma as he tries to allocate funds to the three sectors. The decision-maker is faced with a challenge: What is the ceiling beyond which necessary defense expenditures for state security must not go, without jeopardizing the people's security?

What expenditure should be allocated to comprehensive development to achieve the citizen's security without causing a deficit in defense expenditure? What expenditure must be allocated for the regime's security, which is a natural measure of interest to all regimes without exception? Balanced expenditure in the three sectors is the only way to achieve comprehensive national security and avoid foreign and domestic borrowing. Debt is a burden; it constitutes a pressure on the freedom of decision-making. It is dangerous to lay more emphasis on military means to maintain national security and little emphasis on comprehensive development, which is actually the backbone of national security. It is also dangerous to devote attention and expenditure to maintain the regime's security, because this changes the concept of national security. Instead of providing security for the country and citizen, we would be providing security for the regime. This constitutes the biggest danger to national security, as it upsets the required balance to achieve stability.

The second link is against whom national security is designed? Who is the enemy? This is the crux of the issue. On the international level, defining the enemy was easy and clear before the disintegration of the Soviet Union as a state and the collapse of communism as an ideology. However, with the end of the Cold War between the two major blocs, the United States and the other states of NATO, which still exists, and the states of the Warsaw Pact, which dissolved itself, began searching for the enemy, whose characteristics had changed. On the regional level, the definition of the enemy was clear and agreed upon before the "peace" agreements were signed between the Arabs and Israel or before the current talks began, talks that might also end in peace agreements. The enemy of the past is currently normalizing its relations here and there and raising its flags in the various capitals according to agreements, expressing the balance of forces and not the balance of interests. However, we cannot ignore the enemy's danger, ambitions, and schemes, particularly in light of its superiority in the conventional balance of forces and the conventional-plus forces—the term I normally use for chemical, biological, and incendiary weapons—and in light of his nuclear monopoly. The possibility that aggression could take place from an Arab country adds to the ambiguity of the situation.

Aggression could take place against another Arab state or from a regional state against an Arab state—i.e., Iran and the islands. The type of aggression could be different. It could be a border dispute, problems concerning water, the exportation of terrorism, or limiting the levels and types of weapons. All this anarchy prompts us to suggest that we use the term threats against national security rather than aggression. The proposed term is more comprehensive and appropriate for the current developments. Threats could emanate from inequitable competitions, international or regional schemes designed to detach us from our roots and identity, or other hostile nonmilitary problems. Besides these foreign threats, we must expect internal challenges, designed to exert pressure on the existing regime with all available means, including force, to obtain certain concessions or to change the existing regime. Foreign threats and internal challenges are always related when they concern national security. Some regimes might even fabricate threats on the borders or outside them to divert attention from internal challenges. However, restrictions imposed on the use of force to resolve disputes between states, laws applied selectively to transfer weapons and technology, and the attempt to impose deficient regional peace has made the danger of domestic turmoil more realistic than a direct foreign threat. The decision-maker, therefore, must face this new danger with well thought-out plans that rely not only on confrontation with force but also on other reformist means. The question now is not whether reform is needed or not, but how and when it should take place.

We now come to the final link: Through whom can we achieve national security? Should we achieve national security on the state level only or we include the pan-Arab and regional levels? A country like Egypt, which is regarded as a big regional state, must work to achieve national security on the state level first, and then on the Arab level. Egypt is the nucleus and the base around which the other Arab states gather. We must realize that the establishment of regional cooperation demands that we first build a strong state and pan-Arab base. To build such a base, we must depend on our own capabilities in the economic, cultural, political, military, and demographical fields. In the world, states are evaluated according to their overall capabilities and not their military or economic strength only. In this respect, the Arab states have total advantage over Israel. Apart from its military strength, Israel totally lacks the resources to sustain its capability. Therefore, Israel has been trying to compensate for this deadly deficiency. It has been trying to obtain multiple capability resources through the multilateral negotiations and normalization, before the political problems are solved. Israel lacks capital, water, markets, manpower, and energy. All these are considered the essence of life and existence. We, therefore, must deal with Israel with complete caution, remembering that joint projects in the fields of gas, oil, water, tourism, and transportation will give Israel the right to benefit from all these in the future. This would require that Israel adopt defense arrangements in matters that pertain to existence.

From this we can see that national security works within a grand strategy. National security can be achieved through the war of technology and not the technological warfare; that is, through superiority in all fields and not only in military power. We live under real peace and not perfect peace, which is absolute. Perfect peace has not been achieved in the past and will not be achieved in the future. The peace being established now is real peace. It is full of contradictions, raising the possibility that force will be used in the near or distant future, because it is being established on the basis of the balance of power and not the balance of interests. Long-term peace must be acceptable to the present and future generations, because unremoved fuses will ignite in time and end in tragedies. This is the lesson of history.

Two Americans, Russian Injured in Road Accident

NC0603162795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Mar (MENA)—Three tourists were injured in a road accident at Kilo 25 on the 'Ayn Sukhnah Road in front of al-Adabiyah port, south of Suez. The al-Bahr al-Ahmar Governorate registered taxi No. 1504 carrying a number of U.S. and Russian tourists collided with Ismailia registered taxi No. 1926.

A responsible source in the Interior Ministry said that the injured were Al Steel, an American student at the Chicago College of Medicine; Mrs. Andrea Erikson, also an American student in the same college; Russian student (Arjman Rodchisky); and Egyptian driver Jamal Mahmud Ahmad.

The injured were evacuated to the 'Ayn Shams Specialist Hospital for treatment. The Prosecution Office has been notified to start investigations.

Masked Persons Fire at Police Chief's Vehicle

NC0703011295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2330 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Aswan, 6 Mar (MENA)—Two unknown persons have opened fire on a police vehicle carrying Captain Muhammad 'Atif, chief police detective in Idfu District in Aswan Governorate in southern Egypt.

The chief detective had just given a lift to his colleague, Deputy Chief Detective Samir 'Abd-al-Mun'im, and had left him at the town's fibrosilicon factory cafeteria when he saw two masked persons on a motorcycle at a bridge junction.

One of the masked persons fired several bullets at the police captain, who returned the fire. The captain was unhurt and the two culprits escaped. A pistol with an empty bullet magazine was later found on the site.

Officials of various detective and police services from Aswan's Security Directorate and forensic experts arrived to examine the scene of the attack and the pistol that had been used. The police are combing the area to find the culprits and the Prosecutor's Office has been notified.

Morocco

Filali Presents Government Statement to House

LD0503200795 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 1722 GMT 5 Mar 95

[Government statement by Prime Minister Abdellatif Filali to an extraordinary session of the House of Representatives—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Prayers and peace be upon the last of the messengers. Mr. Speaker, Ladies, Deputy Speaker, honorable deputies: I have the honor to present to this esteemed house the government statement according to Chapter (?53) of the kingdom's Constitution after the appointment of the new government by his majesty—may God make him victorious—who has done me the honor of asking me to head it.

Before I present to you the general lines of this program, I would like first to hail the members of the previous government, who during their term of office showed honesty, efficiency, and ability, in addition to a patriotic spirit, and for this they deserve our full appreciation and praise.

The new government, in which several political parties are participating, has come into being as a result of various contacts and consultations in implementation of the gracious directives of his majesty the king. These consultations were characterized by a spirit of responsibility and national awareness of the need to mobilize all our energies to deal with the problems and challenges facing Morocco in the various fields. [passage omitted]

In particular, Morocco has opted for the principles of political plurality, respect for basic freedoms, and the encouragement of private initiative. Thanks to those sound options, our country has proved able to avoid the shocks that have affected many developing countries. It has also proved itself able to build a balanced economic system that grows gradually and adapts to regional and international changes.

Our adherence to this course had enabled us to [words indistinct] foreign debts rescheduling, which gave our country greater credibility on the international scene and helped us create a sound political and economic atmosphere which encourages investment.

The adherence of Moroccan society to its religious and national sacred elements and the principles of its ancient civilization has enabled it to withstand all challenges and to forge ahead toward the 21st century with self-confidence and conviction of success.

I am presenting this statement in circumstances of deep and significant regional and international transformations which have to be taken into consideration. These include in particular: first, the world economic crisis makes it impossible to respond to developing states' economic and social development needs; second, the international currency and monetary system is so fragile that it is incapable of helping to finance the economies of developing states.

We will now review the main bases of the external and internal policies which his majesty's government plans to implement.

Naturally, the issue of our territorial integrity if the government's first priority. It will be our persistent concern to ensure the final return of our Saharan provinces to the homeland, and regain the two usurped towns of Ceuta and Melilla and the neighboring islands from Spain.

The merging of the Saharan provinces with the national economy and the population cohesion between the north and south of Morocco, which has not been interrupted, makes us await the referendum with assurance, self-confidence, and the conviction that its results can only promote our territorial integrity.

Here I cannot fail to express in the name of all Moroccans our gratitude and appreciation to the Royal Armed Forces, the Royal Gendarmerie, and the men of the national security and the ancillary forces for the sacrifices they have made to guarantee peace and stability for our brothers in the Saharan provinces and defend the sanctity of our homeland and its gains.

With the same determination, eagerness and national consensus, his majesty's government will continue its work to end the Spanish presence in the two cities of Ceuta and Melilla and the neighboring islands. Taking into consideration the relations of good- neighborliness and friendship which link our two countries, we will pursue a policy of dialogue and consultation to end the legacy of a Spanish presence in northern Morocco. In this respect, the royal proposal that a commission be set up to consider and consult over the issue, remains in our view the best way of discussing the future of the two towns within the framework of Moroccan sovereignty and the protection of the economic interests of the Spaniards in the two towns.

The Spanish Government's recent audacity in putting forward texts called the self-rule laws for Ceuta and Melilla, and their recognition by the Spanish parliament, are negative developments which we consider to be invalid and harmful to Moroccan-Spanish relations. The least that can be said about these texts are that they are not in harmony with either the form or the spirit of the pact of good-neighborliness, friendship, and cooperation which binds the two countries.

Spain's insistence in denying Morocco's right for the return of parts of its territory is inconsistent with its continued demand for the return of Gibraltar from Great Britain. All this will not dissuade us from continuing to demand this part of our national territory, and the colonial nature of this issue will not change.

As well as defending our territorial integrity, we will, in compliance with his majesty's directives, continue to help build the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA], which has long been in our minds and has now become a tangible reality since the signing of the Marrakech agreement in February 1989. A common history, kinship, and unity of language and religion are factors contributing to the emerging of an internationally credible Maghreban economic bloc. Together with its brothers in UMA, Morocco will seek to give momentum to the Maghreban unionist process at this time of international economic and political blocs, despite the difficulties facing it, in order to give shape to a Maghreban cooperation that responds to the aspirations of the Maghreb peoples and enables them to defend their common interests in the face of other economic blocs.

As a member of the Arab community, we will also seek to bring about conditions for inter-Arab reconciliation. We support the search for an overall just solution in the Middle East that guarantees the recovery of all the Arab territories occupied since 1967, and the implementation of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to its own statehood with holy Jerusalem as the capital.

At the Islamic level, and in view of the vicious campaigns against Islam, the fact that his majesty is chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] will enable Morocco to make a fresh start in its efforts to unify the Islamic nation, strengthen its solidarity, defend its fateful causes, and show the real image of Islam as a religion of tolerance, moderation, dialogue, and openness.

Finally, our relations with the European Union [EU] are remarkable in that Morocco is the sole partner whose relations with Europe cover two basic aspects: first, trade, economy and finance; and second, cooperation in maritime fishing. Concerning cooperation in trade, the economy, and finance, we see that its current framework is no longer adequate. Morocco has always expressed its dissatisfaction over the quality of its relations with the EU in the framework of its Mediterranean policy. Morocco criticizes this general policy because it does not reflect its geopolitical position, its fundamental policies, and its economic and social assets toward the European Union.

Although Morocco has regularly drawn EU officials' attention to the need to set up an effective partnership between the two sides, we are still waiting for an answer to the proposal we presented concerning the substance of this partnership. On the other hand, the 1976 agreement between Morocco and the EU, together with the requirements of the Marrakech agreement enabling Morocco to keep the privileges it secured following the implementation of bilateral agreements, has failed to produce the results we expected due to restrictions preventing the entry of Morocco's agricultural products to European markets, and the competitive practices carried out by some EU member states.

There are some signs that the European Union is about to reassess its stance. However, we have not yet been informed that the European Commission has put forward a revised proposal regarding the mandate offered to Morocco on 6 December 1993.

In the sphere of fisheries, I have first to recall the importance of this sector to our economic development, in view of the wide horizons it opens in the field of nutrition, creating employment opportunities, and bringing in hard currency. Thus, the government will protect this sector as a vital sector of the national economy. It will safeguard fisheries and exploit them wisely to serve, first and foremost, national interests.

Morocco, which exercises sovereignty over its territorial waters in terms of decision-making and choice, will endeavor to develop this sector, encourage Moroccan investors to stimulate it, and make it one of our important resources.

It would be natural for Morocco, like other countries with fish resources, to try to protect its fisheries sector and employ the capabilities available in this sector in its development. On this basis, Moroccan and European cooperation cannot proceed by jeopardizing our national interests. However, this view does not at all exclude establishing a balanced cooperation with the European Union, with which we have an agreement in this field.

Morocco, which has always demonstrated its readiness to establish an effective partnership in all fields, particularly in this sector, is eager for cooperation within a framework of respect for the needs of an effective partnership in accordance with the principles of international law, foremost among which is sovereignty over maritime regions and resources. In addition, we need an objective assessment of the implementation of previous agreements, particularly concerning the size of the European fleet, preserving fish stocks, and other issues.

His majesty's government is determined that these principles shall be crystallized during negotiations with the European Union on a new agreement regarding this sector, keeping in mind that there are many aspects of cooperation with the European Union to be considered. [passage omitted]

Mr. Speaker, Honorable Ladies and Gentlemen, and Representatives, I will now move on to the second part of the government's statement, which concerns the policies the government intends to follow at a national level. I will say that these policies aim to stimulate employment and investments particularly in the rural world, administrative reform, consolidation of the state of law, and establishing social justice to guarantee the citizen his rights and liberties and make him useful to himself and his society.

One of the government's essential priorities remains safeguarding financial and economic balances and gradually abandoning the state's direct intervention in production in order to guarantee the conditions for a continuous and sound growth and safeguard the credibility which has been acquired by the Moroccan economy since its restructuring.

Since that policy produced fruit, and considering current circumstances and the new international climate, any substantial change in this policy would frankly make us go backward and would cancel all the sacrifices we have made and all the gains we have achieved in the past decade. [passage omitted]

I would confirm to you once again that, according to the king's noble directives, the resources resulting from privatization will continue to be utilized as a whole to ensure equipment and investment and to consolidate employment, especially in the rural sector.

Mr. Speaker, Ladies, Deputy Speaker, Honorable Deputies, Morocco has made wide strides in economic and industrial development. However, whatever its positive aspects, this development has produced a negative social phenomenon which has acquired wide dimensions that are opposed the principles of building a balanced and cooperative society. I refer to the social differences which have become apparent and are widening day by day.

I am sure that everyone is aware of the importance and seriousness of this phenomenon, which has no place in our society. It is time to think of the necessary means we will all take to check this phenomenon and tackle it in order way to maintain balance and cooperation within Moroccan society and give us the opportunity as a whole to improve the conditions of deprived social segments.

Mr. Speaker, Ladies, Deputy Speaker, Honorable Deputies, if opening the Moroccan economy to the outside world provides an opportunity to attract foreign capital and make use of advanced technology, it is at the same time a big challenge to our industry and our exports, which have to make innovations and progress in order to compete. [passage omitted]

In this respect, his majesty's government will open a comprehensive discussion with all productive sectors to identify everything necessary to raise their competitive capabilities and put them into practice.

Our industry and contractors have to be aware of the critical nature of the period we are passing through. They have to restructure themselves and cope with the massive advancement of modern technology. They have to diversify their exports and market commodities of higher value and better quality. [passage omitted]

Tourism suffers today from stagnation as a result of the crisis this sector is witnessing on the international plane and also from a narrow and obsolete view; another factor is the scarcity of initiatives for offering new services and complying with the requirements of the foreign tourist. The government is determined to open this file soon so as to study its problems and the prospects of its development with all concerned parties. [passage omitted]

Mr. Speaker, Ladies, and Honorable Deputies, his majesty's government is aware that the rural areas have not benefitted sufficiently from the economic and social development program that has been implemented thus far. Now is the time to give these areas the care and attention they deserve in order to overcome the shortcomings from which they suffer, particularly the high rate of illiteracy, low individual income, weak health infrastructure, shortage of drinking water, and isolation from the outside world. [passage omitted]

Starting from this premise and from the fact that the rural areas have human and natural resources which have not yet been completely exploited, his majesty's government intends to give priority to the rural areas in order to ensure the necessary social and economic equipment. It intends to develop the agricultural sector by constructing 10,000 km of roads in order to break the isolation of the rural areas.

In addition to that, the government will concentrate on building schools in the remote areas in order to enable all children to follow an educational and vocational training. The government also intends to build surgeries and provide drinking water and electricity in the villages.

Since agriculture is the main source of income for 80 percent of the inhabitants of our rural areas, his majesty's government will continue to implement the national irrigation program which aims at irrigating 1 million hectares by 1997, reclaiming wasteland, increasing cattle breeding, and expanding forest areas.

The need to ensure the security of food supplies dictates that the government deal in a determined way with private investors and use modern methods to exploit arable land in order to double their output and diversify their products.

In this context, I consider it not just preferable but our duty to open immediately a national dialogue—in which all political and trade union organizations, economic circles, representatives of agricultural and industrial chambers, and academic experts will participate—in order to analyze all the aspects and dimensions of the problems of rural areas and to agree the necessary measures to be adopted in the short and long terms so that we can provide coming generations with decent living conditions in rural areas.

Mr. Speaker, honorable deputy speakers, honorable members of the House of Representatives, I cannot fail to take this opportunity to speak about the northern region, which has its own unique situation because of its position and the fact that it neighbors Ceuta and Melilla. This results in commercial and economic activities which have mostly negative repercussions on our national economy and our development effort.

As you may remember, following his majesty's speech it was decided to allocate special financial resources and carry out an integrated program over six years to revive this region in the fields of the economy, industry, and tourism, and to provide the necessary infrastructure.

It was our view that to achieve this endeavor, a national effort is required to provide huge investments to benefit these provinces. It is our duty to carry out this task, which also requires foreign aid. We are holding discussions about this with some foreign parties. [passage omitted]

In this field, his majesty's government will concentrate on the following: The state's responsibility in education and training, since it considers this to be a public utility; encouraging the private sector to invest in education; universality of education to enable all children of school age to enter educational institutions, concentrating on rural areas; compulsory education for children in order to give as many of them as possible the opportunity of completing basic education at least. [passage omitted]

Reforming the education system will provide conditions to make our economy more dynamic and more attractive to national and foreign investment. However, the two basic factors that encourage investors are linked not only to material incentives and the educational environment but also to the reputation and efficiency of the administration and the judiciary, and also to social stability. [passage omitted]

We will continue to develop the means to guarantee respect for human rights in every respect, so that the ordinary citizen can feel content and reassured and can exercise his basic rights within a framework of legality, without any arbitrariness or violation of his honor.

It is worth pointing out in this context that recent decisions—and here I mention the repeal of the 1935 phenomenon and the general amnesty granted by his majesty—have highlighted the extent to which Morocco adheres to respect for human rights and its determination to finally close the page of the past. [passage omitted]

Solving these problems also depends on the need to mobilize the necessary material means in accordance with available possibilities, and we Moroccans will seek to do precisely this.

Finally, tackling these issues depends on the national will and the pooling of efforts, whether between the executive and legislative organs, or between the private and the public sectors. Thank God, Morocco has enough potentials to enable it to overcome these problems and meet social requirements and the development challenges facing us; it has national solidarity, the inventive capability of its cadres and enterprises, and all the constituents needed by a civil society. In this respect, I will remain loyal to you and the Moroccan public through dialogue, frankness, and objectivity in posing problems and suggesting solutions liable to tackle them. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Opposition Party Announces Structural Changes

MM0703120995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Mar 95 p4

[Report by Zayn al-'Abidin Ahmad: "The Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party Dissolves Its Political Bureau and Asks Its Central Committee To Assume Leadership"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo—The Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party yesterday announced the dissolution of its Political Bureau and the vesting of party leadership in the Central Committee which will in turn form, from within its ranks, an Executive Bureau to assume supreme leadership of the party.

The Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party yesterday evening concluded its meeting in Cairo, held to discuss the enhancement of the party's performance and the completion of its internal organization structure to ensure the integration of its performance and the expansion of the basis of participation within its ranks. The meeting was attended by the party's branch committees in 10 countries as well as members of the Central Committee.

In a speech at the meeting, party chairman Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani said: The relations between both peoples of the [Nile] Valley [Egyptians and Sudanese] are strong and there are great and immense hopes for more favorable conditions in the future for the realization of union between Sudan and Egypt. He added that this union is the hope entertained by our two peoples in Sudan and Egypt. Greetings to dear Egypt: leadership, government, and people.

Moving from our rich experience in struggle, we have pledged to assume our full national responsibility and confront the evil [that reigns over the country]. It was for this reason that we have left our homeland in order to lead the Sudanese opposition after having realized for certain that there was no way before us to perform our important national role other than by emigrating in the cause of God and the Homeland. Hence our presence amongst you and the great struggle led by your party in all regional and international arenas to instigate all [African] continental and international peoples, to rally all support and help for the cause of the Sudanese people, and to work for the eradication and uprooting of the dictatorial arbitrary regime and the restoration of the rights to their owners.

Al-Mirghani said that the party is acting in accordance with well-entrenched and solid constants, which are as follows:

First: The unity of Sudan, with all its territories, and the coexistence of its religions, races, and tribes within the framework of a well-established national unity which would ensure justice, peace, and security for all.

Second: The prevalence of democratic plurality and the entrenchment of our complete faith that it is the right of all Sudanese to enjoy democracy and equal rights and equal obligations without discrimination because of religion, race, or ethnic origin within the framework of a system of government that ensures the just distribution of wealth and authority among the sons of the homeland.

Third: The Islamic religion is our choice, but we do not impose it by force on others. We are convinced that all the divine religions call for fraternity and justice among people.

Fourth: The building of the national economy in a manner that would ensure honorable life for the people of Sudan and the elevation of the state to the ranks of modern countries.

Fifth: The pursuance of a rational and moderate foreign policy which would protect the rights of brotherhood and neighborhood and abide by regional and international charters and traditions with adequate consideration for the special character of the relationship between Sudan and Egypt and the tidying up of conditions in the Nile Valley.

Referring to the important meeting of all opposition factions at Asmara on 27 December last year, Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani said that the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party has made an effective contribution to the meeting which came out with the Asmara Document which crystallized the national concept of future Sudan.

Al-Mirghani added: Our meeting today constitutes an important and new stage in our organizatiaonal march forward. As you are aware, our conditions in the past stage were formulated in a manner compatible with the conditions and tasks dictated by the exigencies of the national work and sacrifice to topple the [National Islamic] Front party.

But in view of the dictates of national action in the present stage, the changes the political arena has been witnessing on the internal and external levels, and the need for the escalation of opposition activities until the collapse of the present oppressive regime, out of our belief in the need for the expansion of the base of participation and the entrenchment of democracy; and stemming from the party's constants and heritage, we have decided that the transitional political party shall henceforth move to form part of the party's Central Committee abroad and to continue its work there. This transfer stems from our appreciation of the effective efforts the Political Bureau has exerted in the past stage on the level of the external opposition action on all levels and in all arenas. Our meeting aims at the achievement of the following:

First: To develop the party's performance within the framework of the principles, objectives, and programs laid down.

Second: To complete the party's organizational structure on the external level and tie it to the internal organizational structure for ensuring the integrated performance of the party.

Third: To expand the base of participation and to elevate the level of active cadres through daily programmed action.

Fourth: To approve the party's provisional constitution and the laws pertaining to the party Central Committee's work abroad.

Fifth: To approve the agreements concluded by the party during the past stage.

Sixth: To define responsibilities so that every member becomes aware of his daily partisan duties and will fulfill them out of his national feeling and to promote this feeling through the provisions of the constitution and the law.

Seventh: To devise machinery and data that will enable the party members to shoulder their responsibilities and to create a favorable climate to attract national capabilities, experiences, and energies to join the party's ranks.

Eighth: To adhere to self-reliance in steering the party's work internally thus ensuring that every member makes his contribution toward the financial support of the party.

Ninth: To move the slogan of "The Rule of the Establishment" and the "Democracy of Organization" into the sphere of reality and application.

The main features of the party's structural organization abroad shall be constituted as follows: the party chairman, the Leadership Committee, the Central Committee, the Executive Committee, the parliamentary body and the party's branches in the countries of immigration. This is in addition to the party's internal bodies which will operate in an organizational structure akin to that external organizational structure.

It will be the duty of the party chairman to coordinate the work of the party's organizations internally and externally.

One of the most important task of the Central Committee will be to act in place of the General Congress and to elect members of the Executive Bureau.

Al-Mirghani added: "These organizational measures and conditions, including the party's provisional constitution, shall continue to be transitional until the country's is rid of its repressive regime. Immediately thereupon and in accordance with the provisions of the provisional constitution, I shall form the leadership of the party from its two internal and external leadership committees which will form the provisional leadership of the Sudanese Democratic Unionist party which in turn will have the basic objective of preparing the ground for the convocation of the party's General Congress within a period not exceeding six months from the date of the fall of the Front's regime.

"I undertake also to invite the party's Central Committee members internally and externally to jointly form a transitional unified Central Committee which would join the party's provisional leadership in shouldering the tasks.

"Once the General Congress is established, the provisional leadership and the provisional Central Committee would have completed their tasks and all powers and authority shall revert to the General Congress which will be responsible for approving the party's constitution and the election of the party's chairman and organizations in a direct and free manner."

Saudi Arabia

Defense Minister on Iranian Missiles, Yemen

LD0603202395 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Mar 95

[News conference by Defense Minister Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud with unidentified correspondents in Tabuk on 6 March—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] Your Highness, will there be a meeting of the council of GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] Defense Ministers or chiefs of staff to face the Iranian escalation in deploying missiles on [as heard] the Arabian Peninsula?

[Sultan] Actually, I do not think there is an escalation regarding the missiles that Iran is said to have deployed on its coast. Actually, we have not animosity toward Iran. We hope to always have the best relations and cooperation with the sisterly and neighboring countries.

[Correspondent] What does your highness expect within the next few months regarding the Yemeni-Saudi agreement, and when will the final agreement be signed?

[Sultan] I expect that within the next few weeks the committees mentioned in the memorandum of understanding will begin work. I think that everyone in Saudi Arabia and the sisterly Republic of Yemen are endeavoring for the benefit of their peoples and their aspirations for cordiality, brotherliness, and good-neighborliness.

[Correspondent] Are there any plans to develop the Peninsula Shield forces?

[Sultan] This is what we said at the summit conference in Bahrain—that the Peninsula forces will be developed and we are working with our brothers in this direction.

[Correspondent] Are there any plans in the Defense Ministry to set up a naval base in the Tabuk region?

[Sultan] If we wanted to set up a naval base we would not set it up in Tabuk, but on the coast. Studies are going on, but when and how are left to the military. [passage omitted]

Opposition Statement Says 'Fundamentalists' Arrested

NC0703103295 Paris AFP in English 0943 GMT 7 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, March 7 (AFP)—Saudi authorities have again arrested a number of Islamic fundamentalists, most of them clerics and university academics, an opposition source said Tuesday [7 March].

The London-based Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights said among those arrested on Sunday was Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Sa'id al-Qahtani, a professor of theology at Mecca University. It did not specify the number of arrests.

Two professors of Islamic sciences at Riyadh University, Sa'id Bin-Zir and Bishr al-Bishr, were also detained, the group said in a statement sent to AFP in Nicosia.

The committee, which accuses King Fahd's government of corruption and undemocratic practices, last reported arrests in early January.

Yemen

1 Killed, 44 Injured in Warehouse Explosion

JN0603203695 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible source at the Ministry of Interior has stated that an explosion took place at a dynamite warehouse belonging to the Roads Authority at 1400 today in the Kilo 16 area along the Sanaa-al-Hudaydah road in the al-Hudaydah Governorate.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', the source added that the explosion killed a 20-year-old woman and slightly injured 44 persons when windows shattered. The injured have been hospitalized to receive the necessary treatment. The explosion also caused material damage to neighboring houses and factories.

Al-Hudaydah Governor brother Muhammad Hatim al-Kha'i, along with officials of the competent authorities, headed for the scene of the incident to supervise efforts to contain and extinguish the fire triggered by the explosion, and to rescue the injured.

The source indicated that the explosion was caused by incorrect and prolonged storage, noting that the security organs are continuing their investigations into the incident.

Al-Iryani on Memo, Summit With Saudi Arabia

JN0703073395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0535 GMT 7 Mar 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "News Reports" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Iryani] I thank Damascus radio. The memorandum of understanding [signed with Saudi Arabia on 26 February], as everybody knows, is a significant and major step toward reaching a final and permanent solution to the border question between the two neighborly states, the Republic of Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In addition, the memorandum of understanding will implement the articles of the al-Ta'if Accord, signed more than 60 years ago, especially in regard to bilateral ties. So in fact, the agreement is comprehensive in that in sets forth a framework to resolve the border issue and create a legal and formal framework for Yemeni-Saudi ties.

[Correspondent] What will happen now, after this memorandum has been signed? What about the summit between President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and King Fahd?

[Al-Iryani] First of all, what is required after signing this memorandum is for it to be ratified and to exchange the documents of ratification. This step, God willing, will take place as soon as possible. As for a meeting between the president and the custodian of the two holy mosques, this is up to them and depends on what they agree on regarding the date and venue. However, the agreement needs to be ratified and the documents should be exchanged first.

[Correspondent] When will this take place?

[Al-Iryani] I expect this to take place within the next few days, at least for our country. I do not expect this to take a long time. We hope this will happen within the next few days. The government could ratify the memorandum this week or next week. As for the House of Representatives, it is now in recess. But we expect it to meet after the 'Id holiday. Certainly, this will be one of the major issues to be presented to it.

Ex-President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad Interviewed

MM0303155595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Mar 95 pp 1, 4

[Interview with former South Yemeni President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad by Ibrahim Humaydi in Damascus "yesterday"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Humaydi] What is your opinion of the the memorandum of understanding signed by the Saudi and Yemeni sides to resolve the border and relations questions?

[Muhammad] We welcome the memorandum of understanding signed in holy Mecca between the Republic of Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. And we commend the spirit of understanding and wisdom through which the two countries settled their dispute. We believe that dialogue and the spirit of understanding are the sound way to settle disputes among states and peoples. [passage omitted]

[Humaydi] Have the Socialist Party leaders asked you to mediate with the Yemeni leadership to alter the list of the 16 figures wanted for trial?

[Muhammad] No one has asked me to do that. However, I personally believe that it is necessary so that people can return to Yemen and the file of last years' events and war can be closed. This file, including the list of the 16 figures, should be closed.

[Humaydi] What was the Yemeni officials' response?

[Muhammad] I sensed their willingness to close the events file.

[Humaydi] Have MAWJ [National Opposition Front] representatives made any contacts with you?

[Muhammad] There is no link between me and MAWJ. I support peaceful political opposition from inside, not outside, the country. I believe that Yemen can—and should—accommodate everyone.

[Humaydi] So you are opposed to the Socialist Party leaders' calls for establishing an opposition from outside or for launching guerrilla warfare?

[Muhammad] Any action should be from inside the country, and opposition should be only peaceful and political.

[Humaydi] Are there relations between you and the Yemeni parties urging you to return to Yemen?

[Muhammad] I have relations with all Yemeni parties, including the "Democratic Dialogue" group calling for my return.

[Humaydi] Why have you still not returned to Yemen?

[Muhammad] There are no reservations on my part regarding my return. Nor are there any reservations on the political leadership's part. But it is to do with choosing the right time to arrange for the return. I had hoped that arrangements for opening the Arab Center for Strategic Studies would be completed. The aims of my return include the issue of opening this center. [passage omitted]

Opposition Radio Reports Chaos, Anger in Baghdad

NC0603150495 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1440 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports from Iraq indicate that security disorders and very grave social conditions are prevailing in Baghdad these days as a result of tyrant Saddam's policies, which have inflicted a real catastrophe on Iraq.

These reports add that most of the capital's districts, such as al-Bayya', al-Fadl, al-Hurriyah, al-Rahmaniyah, and al-Qazimiyah are in a state of disorder and chaos and that the popular anger with the tyrant's regime has increased in these popular areas. The reports added that the regime's mercenaries are staging terrorist practices against the citizens and are intentionally spreading chaos in these areas.

Jordanian Sources Cited on 'Disorders'

NC0603153695 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed Jordanian sources have confirmed that security disorders have taken place in Baghdad and have prompted the ruling regime to encircle the [word indistinct] in an attempt to control the situation.

The Jordanian sources said that [words indistinct] in Baghdad and its suburbs have been the scene of riots last week and [words indistinct]. The sources added that one of the [words indistinct] embarked on by Baghdad's ruler in the north and the south of the country and the imposition of security measures in and around Baghdad came in the wake of a series of incidents [words indistinct] in some areas.

Reportage on Fighting Between Kurds, Government

Opposition Said To Capture Samaraa'

LD0603170995 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1558 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 6 Mar—An Iraqi opposition movement announced today that the town of Samarra' northwest of Baghdad had fallen into the hands of opposition forces.

The Islamic Accord Movement [Harakah al-Wifaq al-Islami] said that opposition forces had also surrounded the oil town of Karkuk and that contacts were under way with Iraqi Government military units inside the northern town to join the ranks of the opposition forces.

On the same subject, Bayan Jabr, the Damascus representative of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], said in a statement to KUNA that fierce battles were being waged between Iraqi Government forces reinforced by Republican Guard forces and opposition troops in (Layn) on the Karkuk axis.

Jabr added that Iraqi Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, and Qusayy, the son of the ruler of Baghdad, had arrived in the town of Karkuk to directly supervise military operations there.

He said that the Iraqi regime had issued a statement over radio and television warning citizens not to make any move that violated security, and had granted full powers to the military command to deal harshly with any popular movement.

Bayan Jabr, the SAIRI representative in Damascus, stressed that the next few days will witness large-scale military operations by the opposition forces in the north and the south similar to the attack that the opposition forces launched in the south during the last two weeks.

In his statement to KUNA, Jabr says: "The information coming from inside Iraq indicates that there is a serious intention to begin a large popular movement to finish off the ruling regime in Iraq, which will cover the north, center, and south. [no closing quotation marks as received]

He explained that the Iraqi regime forces were digging trenches around Baghdad because of their fear of a violent popular uprising. The mounting of [word indistinct] weapons on party headquarters had also been observed.

Jabr concluded by saying that the command of the Iraqi opposition was intensely studying how an actual movement in the field could be carried out to in order to make 1995 the decisive year and get rid of the Iraqi regime, restoring security and stability to the region.

Opposition Makes Statement on Fighting

NC0603220495 Paris AFP in English 2141 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Baghdad, March 6 (AFP)—Iraq on Monday [6 March] said its army clashed overnight with Kurdish fighters in northern Iraq, the official news agency INA reported. [passage omitted]

In statements received by AFP in Cyprus, the Iraqi National Congress [INC], a coalition of opposition groups based in northern Iraq, said fighting has taken place east of Karkuk, a government-held town on the edge of the Kurdish region.

"The 5th and 7th divisions of the army have moved east of Karkuk towards the al-'Amarah region" to be closer to the Kurdish region, said the INC which has reported Iraqi troop movements towards the Kurdish region and shelling of towns there since last Wednesday.

Army Attack in Irbil Said Repulsed

NC0703044095 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 0404 GMT 7 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners, we have received the following report. At midnight last night, the night of

6 to 7 March, the Iraqi regime's forces attacked advanced posts belonging to Kurdistan's peshmergas in the (Guer) area of Irbil Governorate.

After a heroic confrontation, the valiant peshmerga forces repulsed the enemy's attack, exploited its retreat to inflict heavy losses on it, and purged some positions that the enemy forces had entered.

In this heroic confrontation, the valiant peshmergas seized the following booty:

They seized seven large-caliber guns, one armored vehicle, three DshK machine guns, 100 Kalashnikov rifles, 200 RPG's, and a large quantity of artillery shells.

'Guarded Tension' Noted; New Clashes Possible

NC0703100795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0935 GMT 7 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 7 Mar (MENA)—According to the latest reports from northern Iraq this morning, guarded tension now prevails in the region after an armed clash between members of the Jalal Talabani-led Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and forward Iraqi units overnight on Sunday [5-6 March].

The reports described the situation there as dangerous and did not rule out new confrontations between the two sides. If this happens, there will be dire consequences.

Arrivals from northern Iraq say the crossing point in Kifri was closed to travelers to and from the Kurdish region. This is the border point Kurdish travelers use when they leave for Baghdad from al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate in northern Iraq.

Iraq's northern region has been tense since late December because of differences involving warring Kurdish elements over custom duties imposed on commodities arriving from Turkey.

Kurdish Radio on 'Expected' Regime's Attacks

NC0603154295 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1509 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The political bureau of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] addressed a message to all the Kurdish and Iraqi parties and forces on 4 March, pointing to the suspect moves and positions of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] leadership. The PUK stressed that the KDP's position runs counter to the readiness expressed by the PUK and all the other Kurdish and Iraqi forces to confront the expected Iraqi regime's attacks on Kurdistan.

The PUK political bureau affirmed that the KDP forces have been bombarding various areas in the Irbil Governorate daily to terrorize the Kurdish masses. The PUK cautioned that the current situation in Kurdistan makes it incumbent on all the political parties and forces to concert the people's ranks to expose the treacherous positions of the KDP leadership at this historical and fateful stage of our people's life.

PUK Message: KDP Stance Threatens 'Historic Opportunity'

NC0703050395 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 0407 GMT 7 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan's [PUK] Political Bureau sent an open message to all of Kurdistan's parties on 4 March, warning of the suspect actions of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] that are designed to thwart this historic opportunity which has come the way of Kurdistan's people.

The text of the message follows:

Just when the PUK, the political forces, and the masses of the people are preparing to retaliate against the Iraqi regime's assaults on the liberated areas in Kurdistan, the KDP—even at this historic and fateful time and faced as we are with such a national duty—rather than send its forces to the battle fronts to confront the Iraqi regime's aggressor forces, is seeking, after its usual custom, to abort this opportunity by sending its forces to the Balisan and (Jiran) basins from which the PUK has withdrawn its military forces, transferring them to the front lines to defend the Kurdistan region and to oppose the Iraqi regime.

The KDP also bombards the areas around the Irbil Governorate daily, causing panic and fright among the Kurdistani public and posing a great threat to the prospects for this historic operation's success.

It is known that the masses of the people of Kurdistan, the Kurdistani and Iraqi parties, and our people's friends are fully aware that the PUK has from the beginning been against the destructive internecine fighting that the KDP forcibly and illogically imposed on the masses of the people of Kurdistan. The PUK has backed all the good offices made by the sincere sons of our nation and our nation's friends to end the conflict. It has responded to all peace calls in this connection.

The KDP's suspect moves and the stance that it is adopting are absolutely at variance with the supreme interest of Kurdistan's people and serve the cause of our enemies' conspiracies. These moves also constitute a great national crime against both the people of Kurdistan and the people of Iraq.

The KDP's moves contradict its promise to the Iraqi Unified National Congress and our people's friends that it will halt fighting on all fronts.

Current circumstances in the region of Kurdistan require all political parties and forces to seek seriously to unite the people's ranks and expose this crime which shows a reckless disregard for the nation's destiny and provides a gratuitous service to Kurdistan's occupiers.

Victory is always for the people. Shame and disgrace to the agents.

[Signed] The PUK Political Bureau on 4 March, 1995

Kurds Propose Cease to Hostilities for Vaccinations

NC0603162895 Paris AFP in English 1534 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, March 6 (AFP)—Iraq is to launch a massive campaign to vaccinate 3.5 million children against polio with the help of the UN children's fund (UNICEF), health officials said here Monday [6 March].

The first phase of the campaign to vaccinate children under the age of five is to start Tuesday in Kurdish-held northern Iraq, UNICEF spokesman 'Imad al-Na'mah told AFP. A second phase is to take place in April.

He said UNICEF had supplied nine million vaccines to Iraqi authorities and won a commitment from feuding Kurdish factions in the north to cease all hostilities for three days to allow the vaccination programme to go ahead.

A huge press campaign has been launched and in a television appeal a senior health ministry official, 'Abd-al-Jabbar 'Abd-al-'Abbas, called for parental support.

"The fight against this illness will be the best response to the embargo" imposed on Iraq by the UN Security Council after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, he added.

Iraqi doctors have said they have witnessed a rise in the numbers of cases of diseases such as rickets especially among children since the start of the embargo.

A UN exemption allows Iraq to sell some of its oil under strict supervision to buy medicine and food. But Baghdad refuses on the grounds that such a move would violate its sovereignty.

Kurds Fear Being Squeezed by Iraqi-Turkish 'Pincers'

MM0603134095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Mar 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Kamran Qurrah Daghi: "Kurdish Fears of Iraqi-Turkish 'Pincers'"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London—High-ranking Kurdish and Iraqi opposition sources stressed to AL-HAYAH yesterday that forces of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] (led by Jalal Talabani) and the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] (led by Mas'ud Barzani) have carried out mutual withdrawals from Irbil and its periphery "in the light of a major escalation by Iraqi military deployments from the south and Turkish deployments from the north, since this has aroused fears that the aim could be to form 'pincers' to compel the Kurds to negotiate with Baghdad."

The sources added that these developments have forced the main Kurdish parties—for the first time—to coordinate militarily in cooperation with the Iraqi opposition. But Baghdad has categorically denied that it has deployed any forces against the Kurds.

The opposition sources pointed out that this escalation coincided with an official appeal addressed to Barzani and Talabani by Ankara to meet with Turkish officials and hold talks, focusing on two points: "Halting the fighting and negotiating with Baghdad."

The sources added that Barzani moved from his office in Salah al-Din Friday night/Saturday morning to Zakho, where he was expected to meet yesterday with Turkish military leaders at their request. The reason for the Turkish request is not known. The sources said that Kurdish circles fear that Turkish forces might cross the border into the territories controlled by the Kurds." [passage omitted]

A spokesman for the Islamic Movement in Iraqi Kurdistan has told AL-HAYAH that a meeting was held in Irbil Friday night/Saturday morning between its and PUK representatives, and that this meeting resulted in a decision to dispatch forces from the two sides to the confrontation areas with Iraqi forces on the Kifri and Chamchamal fronts. The spokesman added that a similar meeting was held at the same time with the KDP, and it was decided to send joint forces to Aski Kalak on the contact line between Dahuk Governorate, which is under Kurdish control, and Mosul. The spokesman stressed that contacts are continuing among leaders of the three parties, which have made appeals for military cooperation to confront the Iraqi threat. The spokesman said that orders have been issued to all fighters who are on leave to join their units. [passage omitted]

The Iraqi and Kurdish opposition sources said that the concern over Turkish deployments is attributable to the fact that—contrary to the Turkish General Staff's statement the day before yesterday—they do not seem a "routine" matter in the framework of the spring operations aimed againt the Kurdish Workers' Party [PKK]. The sources pointed out that the Turkish forces' deployment is being conducted on a large scale and extends from "Silopi near the border with Iraq to the Iranian border, supported by large numbers of tanks and artillery."

The sources expressed their fears that the Turkish forces might be intending to enter northern Iraq to "comb" the border strip inside Iraq in order to "purge" it of PKK fighters and "arrest" some 15,000 Turkish Kurds who have moved to Kurdish areas in northern Iraq and most of whom are living in camps near Zakho. But a well-informed Kurdish source has ruled out that Turkey would do that, "because Kurdish refugees are looked after by the United Nations and live in the Atrush area, and in order for Turkish forces to reach them, they have to enter Dahuk first."

The opposition forces said that these developments have aroused the "concern" of the Americans, who are closely watching the situation and making contacts with the parties concerned. In this connection the sources cited the Turks' hard line vis-a-vis contacts with Kurdish leaders in Iraq, "to the extent that they have recently prevented a U.S. mines expert from entering North Iraq."

U.S. Blamed for Instigating Army's 'Clash' With Kurds

NC0603193095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1837 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 6 Mar (INA)—The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has put a specific question to an authoritative source of the Military Intelligence, requesting comments on what is being published and said in some foreign, agent, and suspicious media organs nowadays about a so-called clash by the agents with some military units or the clash of our military units with them. The authoritative source made the following comment:

You know that every time the Security Council considers the possibility of lifting the blockade and easing the sufferings of the Iraqi people, the United States and its agents usually resort to disseminating a series of unsubstantiated news reports and fabricating issues with a view to confusing public opinion. All this is being done to undermine the just campaign of those calling for lifting of the blockade and the easing of our peoples' suffering. It seems that the Americans have discovered that their logic is facing increasing embarrassment in the Security Council, particularly since this topic will be raised again this month or in April.

Thus, certain information we have indicates that U.S. intelligence elements have been staying in the self-rule area since February, exerting all possible pressure to get the agents in the north, especially the followers of agent Jalal Talabani, to clash with some of our forward sectors. Some of their elements did in fact clash last night with two platoons of a regiment in the 5th Corps sector. The regiment repulsed them and inflicted heavy losses. We do not rule out continued attacks from the agents on our forward sectors in the coming few days in order to achieve the U.S. objective. Our sectors are in purely defensive positions and have never attacked the agents outside our defensive positions.

In any case, the United States and its agents should learn the lessons of the recent past and realize that Iraq is standing firm against their treacherous, sly methods. The right is now manifest, not only to the noble Iraqi men, glorious Iraqi women, and the honest Arabs, but also to all just people throughout the world. This leaves no scope for anything but what is right; and there is no scope for charlatanry and treachery. God is great.

Kuwaiti Radio Reports Fighting, Cites Oppositionists

NC0603162195 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1510 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Citing its correspondent in Tehran, the Kuwaiti radio said that reports from inside Iraq talk about tension in the north and south portending new confrontations with the regime, which has sent additional troops along the borders of the liberated Kurdistan region.

The Kuwaiti TV station said that a regime's 500-strong force attacked two Kurdish villages south of Irbil after bombarding them with long-range artillery. Meanwhile, the reports noted that the popular resistance groups in Mosul are prepared to confront the regime's forces.

Elsewhere, heavy clashes continue to rage between the opposition corps Badr and the Baghdad regime's forces in Huwayzah marshland. The reports said that 120 of the regime's troops have been captured by the opposition forces.

Citing the Iraqi opposition sources, the Kuwaiti TV station affirmed that Iraq will be the scene of major internal changes within the next few days. These changes could be an incentive to speed up the formation of a provisional government to overthrow the fascist regime in Baghdad.

Kurdistan's Ulema Praise Government 'Initiative'

JN0503150995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1335 GMT 5 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mosul, 5 Mar (INA)—Some of the esteemed ulema in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region have praised the historic initiative of the Council of Ministers, urging the warring cliques in the Kurdistan Region to hold negotiations [with the government] for the benefit of the Iraqi people.

In statements to the Iraqi News Agency, the ulema urged the Kurdish people in Iraq's Kurdistan to benefit from the wise and national initiative, to play their national role, to unify their ranks and foil aggressors's plots to fragment national unity, and to put an end to the destruction, looting, and fighting, which are taking place in Kurdistan as a result of the absence of security and stability.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Jabbar Hamdi, head of the education committee in Dahuk Governorate and preacher at the 'Abdallah al-Jardan Mosque, said that the wise initiative of the Council of Ministers had made a deep impression on the honorable Kurdish people because it has given a second chance to those who were deceived by the false promises of the enemies of Iraq.

Shaykh 'Abdallah 'Umar Sultan, imam and preacher at the 'Abdallah Bakr Afandi Mosque, said that the initiative was launched to assure our people in Kurdistan and the whole world that President Saddam Husayn is the only person who can save the Kurds from the suffering, killing, and looting, which befell them as a result of the wicked imperialist and Zionist plots to harm Iraq and its national sovereignty.

UN Review of Sanctions, Albright Tour Viewed

U.S. Said Expecting UN Row Over Blockade

JN0303201995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1855 GMT 3 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 3 Mar (INA)—THE WASHINGTON POST today cited a U.S. official as saying that the U.S. Administration expects an open dispute inside the Security Council over the lifting of the embargo imposed on Iraqi oil exports.

The newspaper says the United States feels that many states believe that lifting of the blockade imposed on Iraq will happen soon and that they want to purchase a share of Iraqi oil. It adds that the U.S. Administration also expects a fierce confrontation and a bitter conflict among the UN Security Council member states when Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, submits his report in early April. It is expected that Ekeus will announce that the monitoring system is fully operational.

THE WASHINGTON POST adds that France and Russia are ready to submit a draft resolution lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq. This step is firmly supported by other Security Council member states; namely, China, Nigeria, and Indonesia. The U.S. officials acknowledge that a crack exists in the coalition that Washington used to lead against Iraq. The paper says that the Clinton administration is launching a wide campaign to continue the boycott of Iraq.

In an article today, THE WASHINGTON POST reveals that a U.S. intelligence officer accompanied Albright on her visits to London, Rome, Prague, Muscat, and Kuwait in order to explain to the officials with whom she met Iraq's efforts to reconstruct its civil and military infrastructure.

On the other hand, the New York-based WALL STREET JOURNAL today cited a senior French diplomat as saying that Albright's extraordinary tour shows that the U.S. officials are not confident of the strength of their position at the Security Council. He added that Iraq complied with the stipulations on lifting the oil blockade and has recognized Kuwait, so there is no longer any justification to continue the blockade.

In another development, diplomatic sources in Washington have said that during his recent meeting with Clinton, Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal discussed the U.S. position at the Security Council regarding the continuation of the blockade in view of the fact that Saudi Arabia is in a bad financial situation, so lifting the blockade imposed on the Iraqi oil exports will further aggravate the Saudi financial situation and could even lead to bankruptcy.

These sources added that Saudi Arabia is also concerned over the fact that the parties to the [political] settlement with the Zionist entity are not in agreement among themselves, and that the settlement, which was supported by Saudi Arabia, is threatened with fragmentation. This will encourage the militant [al-jihadiyah] elements and tendencies to act against the Israeli occupation.

Albright Tour, Army Buildup Linked

JN0503182695 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1715 GMT 5 Mar 95

[Unattributed commentary from "News and Follow-up" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Our Kurdish people have faced great suffering because of the acts of murder, expulsion, torture, and random arrests, and the confiscation of public liberties. These acts have been committed by persons who claim to be part of our Kurdish people under the banner of human rights, which Washington raises and which it uses to oppress people and commit all kinds of murder, starvation, and embargo.

We say this as we read the statements by Jalal Talabani's group claiming that Iraqi troops are massing in the Chamchamal area. The obvious facts and events confirm what the Iraqi military source has said; that the motive for these news reports is the weak military position of Jalal Talabani's group in its conflict with Mas'ud Barzani's group which makes them stick to lies in an effort to shuffle cards and conceal the truth about conditions in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region.

This is not all. This fabricated news is linked to the U.S. campaign which seeks to maintain the unjustified embargo imposed on Iraq. It is well known that each time the UN Security Council's review of the measures of the blockade imposed on Iraq approaches, the United States repeats shallow charges of alleged human rights violations or Iraqi troop buildups in the north or in the south, and so forth. Here, roles are given to certain well-known parties to participate in the feverish U.S. campaign.

He who views the scene will notice that with the approach of the periodical review of the embargo imposed on the Iraqi people, Albright launched a deceptive campaign to express the U.S. Administration's concern over the growing and escalating international opposition to the unjustified blockade imposed on Iraq in the absence of any justification for its continuation.

Albright says that Washington will veto any draft resolution aiming at lifting the embargo. However, Washington will not be able to intimidate the world and maintain the blockade indefinitely. This is because the international community has become aware of facts and it is certainly capable of defending its interests.

Therefore, the picture must be viewed as a whole. The reports on the Iraqi troop buildups in the Chamchamal area are not separate from the U.S.-Zionist campaign to maintain the embargo and harm Iraq's security and sovereignty. However, Iraq is much stronger that any attempt to infringe on its security, sovereignty, and [word indistinct]. History confirms this fact, and future events will also confirm it.

U.S. Offer To Discuss Resolutions Rejected

JN0603092495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 6 Mar (INA)—An Iraqi paper has stressed that the recent trip of Madeline Albright, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, was a clear example of the U.S. Administration's sense of anxiety, isolation, and inability to face the international support for lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq.

AL-THAWRAH, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says in an article today that Albright's veto threat not only reflects the U.S. Administration's insistence on continuing its savage crime of annihilating the Iraqi people, but also the U.S. fears stemming from the recent substantial changes in the international position on the blockade after the exposure of all its pretexts and motives.

The paper refers to the U.S. Administration's sense of isolation, fear, and impotence, having realized that there is nothing left to justify maintaining the blockade imposed on Iraq since Iraq has honored all its obligations toward the UN Security Council resolutions. The paper says that all legal and technical reasons and problems concerning those resolutions will be resolved.

The paper refers to the U.S. Administration's cheap and exposed move to agree [as received] on lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq, as evidenced by Albright's announcement that the United States is ready to rediscuss Resolutions 706 and 712 to enable Iraq to sell a limited quantity of oil to address urgent humanitarian needs.

The paper describes Albright's offer as wicked, worthless, and acrimonious. It says that Iraq adamantly rejects this offer, adding that Iraq will continue to adamantly reject it because it aims at tampering with Iraq's domestic situation and dividing its people. The offer also hurts the Iraqi people's dignity and harms Iraq's independence and sovereignty, and aims at maintaining and prolonging the blockade.

Albright Secretary Cited on Clinton Letters

JN0603152195 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] James Robin, the Jewish secretary of Madeleine Albright, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, yesterday disclosed to THE WASHINGTON POST the contents of President Clinton's letters to the heads of state whom Albright met during her recent tour.

Robin described the letters as very, very, strongly worded. He added that this is the first time the United States has leveled such explicit threats in its letters. The letters stated that the United States alone bore the burden of the war against Iraq and that it did not at all understand any country's attempt to bypass the U.S. position toward the blockade on Iraq.

Commenting on Clinton's letters, an American commentator said that these threats are a clear violation of the provisions of the United Nations Security Council's [UNSC] resolutions. These threats, he added, also indicate that the U.S. Administration has resorted to this policy because it has no confidence in the situation inside the Security Council.

THE NEW YORK TIMES also pointed out that the U.S. Administration was threatening to use the veto for propaganda purposes, but that it would not use it because the international situation would not be helpful, and because it feared further isolation.

Egyptian Criticism of Blockade Cited

NC0603191295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1705 GMT 6 Mar 93

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad, 6 Mar (INA)—A number of Egyptian politicians and figures have denounced the hostile U.S. policy toward Iraq and its unjustifiable insistence on continuing the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq.

In statements to the INA correspondent in Iraq, they agreed that the tour of Madeleine Albright, U.S. envoy to the United Nations, to a number of countries would reveal quite clearly that the U.S. Administration is plotting against Iraq and is mobilizing all its imperialist resources in order to continue with the crime of the blockade and prevent the international community, which is calling for an immediate halt to the Iraqi people's sufferings, from lifting it.

Liberal Party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad said that the United States is practicing a double standard, racist, and negative policy toward Iraq, using the United Nations as a legal cover for these practices that violate law and lead to political mayhem in the world. He stressed that the blockade crime, which has left immense negative effects on the Iraqi people, is an accountable crime in international law and norms.

Warning against continuing the hated blockade of Iraq, he said that the region will remain beyond stability and peace as long as the racist and illegal practices continue to target Iraq, which is an important political and human factor in the stability of the region's security and peace.

He stressed that the lies propagated by Albright cannot be believed because they are illogical and because her Administration has been following a hostile policy toward Iraq and the Arab nation for many long years, specially inside the Security Council. He noted that the U.S. envoy's tour in a number of the Security Council member states is an extension of this irrational policy.

Dr. Muhammad Bashir, secretary general of the Egyptian Engineers Association, accused the United States of exerting political and economic pressures on countries in order to continue and cover up its racist crimes against Iraq and its people. He described Albright's suspicious tour as U.S. arrogance and aggression against international law and the UN charter.

He called on the international community, all its organizations and bodies, to organize an international campaign to condemn the U.S. policy and its insistence on starving and fighting the Iraqi people and to act collectively inside and outside the Security Council to end the blockade [word indistinct].

He stressed that the U.S. Administration is lying to the international community to stop the latter's demand for ending the unjust measures against Iraq and its people. [passage omitted]

French Interests Section Opened, Officials Comment

JN0603132295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1112 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 6 Mar (INA)—The French interests section in Baghdad started its work within the Romanian Embassy today. A celebration was held on the occasion.

In a statement to INA, Jean-Francois Nodinot, head of the French interests section in Baghdad, said that this is a step in the right direction, and that it will help bolster the ties of friendship and cooperation between Iraq and France.

'Abd-al-Jabbar 'Umar al-Duri, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, who attended the inauguration, said that the French move of opening an interests section in Iraq is an advanced step toward breaking the isolation imposed by the enemies on Iraq. In a statement to INA, which covered the occasion, al-Duri said that this step by France shows Iraq's important international status and that it is returning to its natural position among world nations.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe had announced in Paris that the entire region's security is linked to Iraq's return to the international community.

'Abd-al-Jabbar al-Duri asserted that the opening of the French interests section in Baghdad is a step toward full normalization of Iraqi-French relations, which are proceeding speedily in this direction.

Iraq and France had agreed to open a French interests section in Baghdad following Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz's visit to Paris on 6 January. Tariq 'Aziz and Alain Juppe praised that decision, deeming it an indication of the improvement of relations between Iraq and France. The opening of the French interests section in Baghdad is an assertion of France's desire to normalize its political and trade relations with Iraq. Those relations were severed at the beginning of the U.S.-led 30-state aggression against Iraq.

The celebration was attended by the Romanian ambassador in Baghdad and a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

Country's 'Diplomatic Offensive' To Counter U.S. Cited

JN0703111095 Baghdad INA in English 0940 GMT 7 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, March 7 (INA)—Iraq has launched its own diplomatic offensive to counter U.S moves to block efforts to lift or ease U.N. sanctions on its oil exports. Senior Iraqi Foreign Ministry officials are touring several countries including members of the U.N. Security Council to seek support for their case. The tour coincided with a campaign by Madeleine Albright, the U.S ambassador to the United Nations, to lobby council members to block attempts to ease the sanctions on Iraq.

Iraq's Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf visited China and Indonesia last month and is now on his way to Nigeria, a non-permanent member of the council. "Our visit to China and Indonesia was good and successful," said 'Abd-al-Jabbar al-Duri, Foreign Ministry undersecretary. Al-Duri said Riyad al-Qaysi, another Foreign Ministry undersecretary, was in France and soon would join Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz in New York to lobby council members before the formal review of sanctions on March 13.

France officially opened its interests section in Baghdad on Monday, restoring its diplomatic presence in the Iraqi capital to end a four-year rupture. "The French decision has come at the right time. We are looking forward to the return of other European countries to their embassies," al-Duri said.

He said Italy had also decided to open an interests section in Baghdad. He said Mr. al-Sahhaf would continue with his current tour and that the Iraqi diplomacy would be "moving eastward and everywhere until the tails of the conspiracy are cut off."

Baghdad diplomats say the United States and Iraq were now locked in a diplomatic tug of war. "The fact that Albright made the tour means Iraq's case was having a favourable hearing at the council," one diplomat said. "Washington's diplomatic campaign on the embargo is proof that Iraqi diplomats had some headway at the council," he added.

Iraq has mustered enough support at the council to have the sanctions suspended or at least eased by May. It blames their continuation on Washington which demands that Baghdad fulfill council demands other than the 1991 war ceasefire terms before allowing it to export oil again.

Iraq's official media depicted Albright's campaign as a desperate attempt to persuade other council members not to back any move by France and Russia to have the sanctions eased or lifted. They accused Washington of repeating "shallow charges" of human rights violations and troop buildups each time the United Nations was about to review the sanctions.

"Washington has put itself in a critical corner and the remaining days of the embargo are not too many," declared the AL-JUMHURIYAH daily. "The U.S. Administration will comply, sooner or later, with the will of the international community," it said.

'Aziz Previews 13 Mar UN Security Council Session

JN0403100895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0905 GMT 4 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 4 Mar (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has ruled out the possibility that the UN Security Council [UNSC] will take a tangible step to lift or ease the sanctions against Iraq during the review session which will be held on 13 March.

In a statement to INA before leaving for New York to attend the review session, 'Aziz said the UN Security Council members are waiting for a report from UN Special Commission Chairman Ekeus which he will submit on 10 March, and after that, serious discussion can begin on the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 678.

He stressed the importance of the council's next review session despite the expectations that it will not yield any positive decision to lift the embargo. He said the importance of the session lies in the fact that it will pave the way for what will be discussed in April.

'Aziz noted that Washington realizes the significance of the 13 March session. He said Albright embarked on her tour before the review session to prepare the ground for the U.S. position that opposes the lifting of the embargo.

Analyzing the reasons and motives behind Albright's tour, he said it reveals an extortion attempt aimed at disposing of the Iraqi political and diplomatic efforts which have achieved positive results.

He clarified an important fact, which is that the UN Security Council resolutions have a collective nature and that the sanctions or measures stipulated by these resolutions cannot continue now that there are legal grounds to end them. Therefore, he said, using the veto to obstruct a resolution to lift the embargo—as Albright is threatening—will nullify the legal grounds for the embargo resolution, and the embargo will then change from an embargo imposed by the UN Security Council to a U.S. embargo against Iraq.

The Iraqi deputy prime minister shed light on the difference between the two cases. He said: There is a crucial and practical difference between the two. The UN Security Council resolution is collective, but the individual resolution concerns only those who are behind it. He noted that the United States has imposed an economic embargo on Cuba since the 1960's but other states have not joined Washington in this embargo and are dealing with Cuba normally.

Tariq 'Aziz touched on Albright's offer to re-discuss Resolutions 706 and 712 and accused the United States of working on transforming Iraq into a refugee camp, which the United States can tamper with under UN cover.

'Aziz said: This offer was first made to us in 1991. We rejected it without any hesitation because it was not an offer to sell oil to purchase food and medicines for the Iraqis, as the United States claims it to be, but to sell a certain quantity of Iraqi oil under the UN supervision. Thirty percent of the revenues would go to the reparations fund, part of the revenues would be spent on financing UN operations in Iraq, and the United Nations would supervise the spending of what little revenue is left to purchase and distribute food and medicine.

The deputy prime minister said: Such a role for the United Nations means hundreds of observers would be employed and their wages and expenses would be paid from the meager revenues that remain. He wondered: What would remain for 20 million Iraqis?

He said he is certain that the offer stipulated by Resolutions 706 and 712, which Washington is now adopting, does not aim at addressing or easing the Iraqis' conditions, but at tampering with Iraq's domestic conditions, dividing the Iraqi people into sects and groups, and turning Iraq into a refugee camp that relinquishes its independence, unity, and dignity to allow the United States to tamper with it under the UN banner.

Tariq 'Aziz stressed that the solution to the Iraqi people's conditions lies in the full implementation of Paragraph 22 now that Iraq had fulfilled all of its obligations that pertain to that paragraph, and not in the promotion of Resolutions 706 and 712, which imply an evil denial of Iraq's legitimate rights, tamper with its domestic conditions, and infringe on its sovereignty.

He also noted that the anti-Iraq U.S. stand is isolated in the world. He said that most members of the world community demand an end to the embargo and do not agree with the U.S. offer, which is designed to bypass the basic issue and water down the issue of lifting the embargo, which received a great degree of support in the UN Security Council and the world community.

'Aziz Arrives in New York

JN0703080495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0737 GMT 7 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] New York, 7 Mar (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz arrived in New York yesterday on a visit to the United Nations on the occasion of the Security Council's periodic review of the Iraqi blockade scheduled for next week.

The deputy prime minister will begin talks today with the members of the Security Council. He will meet first with the Security Council president for this month, Chinese Ambassador Li Zhaoxing. [passage omitted]

Correction to RCC Decree Prohibits Illegal Payments

WA0703144895

This correction pertains to the item headlined "RCC Decree Prohibits Illegal Payments," published in the 3 March Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 17:

Column one, second paragraph, only sentence make read: ...receive money from others in any way whatsoever in return for covert or overt interest rate exceeding the maximum allowed...(rewording for clarity, deleting vernacular in parentheses)

Peres on Peace Process, 'Terrorism,' Settlements

AU0703084195 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 5 Mar 95 pp 162-166

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Juergen Hogrefe and Romain Leick in Jerusalem; date not given: " 'Arafat Must Show Strength of Character"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Minister, the negotiations between Israel and the PLO are deadlocked. Bloody terror and political vacillation are threatening this historical reconciliation. Is the entire peace process collapsing?

[Peres] No, we are carrying on. Some things are clearly taking place, such as the talks regarding elections to the Palestinian Autonomy Council; as for the rest, that is more of an unknown quantity.

[DER SPIEGEL] However, evidence of progress is not discernible at the moment. Large segments of Israeli and Palestinian public opinion have already declared the Oslo treaty dead.

[Peres] Our country has always been internally divided over a solution to the Palestinian problem. The issue has always been a complicated one. Where should one seek recourse? There has never been a Palestinian state, neither under the Arabs, the Turks, nor the British. There was not even a Palestinian people. History has left no border posts in this region.

[DER SPIEGEL] Following the latest bomb attacks in Bet Lid and the 21 victims that resulted, is there still a mandate in Israel for continuing the peace process?

[Peres] Fifty-six percent of the population supports us and a majority in parliament are in favor of continuing the policy. We are not ruled by a pope, but live in a democracy. We do not run off to the hospital every day to measure the patient's temperature.

[DER SPIEGEL] President Ezer Weizman has called on the government to suspend negotiations with the PLO. As far as opposition leader Binyamin Netanjahu is concerned, Oslo is finished.

[Peres] What else should Netanjahu say? Does he want our troops to march back into Gaza?

[DER SPIEGEL] And what about Weizman?

[Peres] He is the president and I do not comment on his statements. However, there must be an end to the murders.

[DER SPIEGEL] Thus, does the future lie in the hands of unpredictable terrorists who know no bounds?

[Peres] Yasir 'Arafat must display more resolve and strength of character in the fight against terrorism in his own territory. We are not demanding a 100 percent success rate. However, he is responsible if Palestinians from Gaza or the West Bank launch attacks against Israel.

[DER SPIEGEL] 'Arafat's police have already arrested hundreds of Hamas and Islamic Jihad supporters.

[Peres] Yes, but he has not put a single terrorist on trial thus far. He has not tried to disarm these groups. He assured us that he will start on that at the end of Ramadan. We will see.

[DER SPIEGEL] 'Arafat is in a difficult situation. The more support he loses among his Palestinians, the less he will be able to ensure a stable situation in the autonomous territories.

[Peres] He has to prove that he really is concerned about seeing the peace process continue. If he is too weak to do that or lacks the necessary will, then why should we negotiate with him at all? If he is a leader who really can prevail over his opponents, this must emerge during the course of internal Palestinian arguments. Remember Ben-Gurion: He had a whole ship full of weapons and crew sunk to make sure that it did not fall into the wrong hands.

[DER SPIEGEL] Is that how 'Arafat should deal with Hamas? There would be a civil war in Gaza then.

[Peres] If 'Arafat does not defeat Hamas, then Hamas will defeat him. 'Arafat must begin by obtaining control over the weapons in his territory, and he must try to achieve a monopoly on the use of force. That is why he has 9,000 policemen.

[DER SPIEGEL] The Islamic Resistance Movement has a lot of support among the population. The people in Gaza and the West Bank are bitterly disappointed because the peace process has not yet brought about an improvement in their standard of living.

[Peres] Of course, a lot of things still need to happen. We are working on the creation of a labor market for the Palestinians by constructing industrial parks in Gaza and the West Bank. If the Palestinian workers are no longer able to come to Israel, then we will bring Israeli jobs to them.

[DER SPIEGEL] Could you do a little more?

[Peres] Look, there are still countries like Iran that threaten Israel's existence. There is still terrorism. We still have the Arab political and economic boycott. We do not have that much more to offer. The Palestinians have their own territory for the first time in history, they have sovereignty over the education of their children for the first time, and they are in charge of the administration of their health system. We are paying for that. We have taken a big risk. It is now up to the other side to risk something.

[DER SPIEGEL] The Palestinians want more than municipal self- administration. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, chairman of the Palestinian Red Crescent in Gaza, recently said that the peace process is only the continuation of the occupation by other means.

[Peres] What does he want? A return to the previous occupation policy?

[DER SPIEGEL] He wants an assurance that there will be an independent Palestinian state at the end of the road.

[Peres] Then he must demonstrate that he is capable of that. The Palestinians have a chance now. We also needed a long time before we got our own state.

[DER SPIEGEL] The Jewish settlements in the occupied territories are a thorn in the Palestinians' side just as terrorism is for Israel. How do you propose to defuse this explosive problem?

[Peres] The existence of Jewish settlements alone does not create an explosive situation. What is of decisive importance is how settlers and Palestinians get on with each other. There are 130,000 settlers in the West Bank, and they account for less than 10 percent of the population. Several hundred thousand Israeli Arabs live in Israel peacefully along with their Jewish fellow citizens. It works if one wants it to.

[DER SPIEGEL] It does not. Prime Minister Rabin sees the settlements as a political burden, and some people even consider them a security risk. And now you are talking about settlers and Palestinians simply being nice to each other?

[Peres] No one has to do what we did. We have returned land, we have returned power without getting anything in return....

[DER SPIEGEL] But you have.... peace.

[Peres] Land is something tangible, whereas peace is something elusive—as long as it does not bring security anyway.

[DER SPIEGEL] Why don't you at least give up small settlements such as Hebron, which attracts so much attention that there are always clashes?

[Peres] It is not so simple. We are bound by laws. We also have to respect decisions made by the previous government. However, we have stopped the construction of new settlements, and we are monitoring the actions of extremists among the settlers very carefully.

[DER SPIEGEL] It is simply inconceivable that all the settlers should remain in the West Bank following the conclusion of peace.

[Peres] That is your opinion. I find it conceivable. There is also terrorism in countries where there are no Jewish settlements. Look at Algeria or Egypt. The main reason is Islamic fundamentalism, which has become one of the greatest threats to world peace following the end of communism. It does not respect human life. How else can one explain the disgusting suicide attacks? Fundamentalism is an attempt to use medieval methods to solve the unresolved problems of a society that is undergoing massive changes.

[DER SPIEGEL] Its rise is also a reaction to undignified living conditions, disappointment, and humiliation.

[Peres] Yes, and that is why one of the key things we want to discuss with our Arab neighbors is the development of the economy, science, and culture. Outmoded criteria and ways of seeing things lead nowhere. Actually, national boundaries are outmoded, as the example of the European Union shows. An economic confederation consisting of Jordan, the autonomous territories, and Israel might prosper.

[DER SPIEGEL] Rather than advocating a common market, your government is currently seeking the separation of Israelis and Palestinians. That amounts to an admission that peaceful coexistence between the two peoples is impossible.

[Peres] We are thinking of national separation while simultaneously pursuing economic cooperation. There are similarities with the situation in Europe....

[DER SPIEGEL] ....the fences and border markers in Europe are disappearing.

[Peres] We have to protect ourselves from infiltration by terrorists, but we do not want to build walls between ourselves and the Palestinians. However, we should be careful that we do not create national units too soon. Politics is like cooking: You can make an omelet out of eggs, but you cannot make eggs out of an omelet.

[DER SPIEGEL] The idea of separation implies the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Why do you not recognize that openly?

[Peres] We believe that the solution lies ultimately in a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation. We recognized the Palestinian people a long time ago. Many Palestinians also live in Jordan. The Jordanians and Palestinians should establish whatever kind of arrangement they can. However, we cannot accept the formation of a Palestinian army a hundred meters away from here. We have had more than enough of that.

[DER SPIEGEL] But 'Arafat wants all the attributes of a sovereign state, including a capital city: East Jerusalem.

[Peres] What right does he have to demand that? Jerusalem was never the capital of an Arab country. Almost twice as many Jews as Arabs live in Jerusalem today. We will not allow Jerusalem to be turned into a new divided Berlin.

[DER SPIEGEL] Jerusalem is also a holy city for Arabs, irrespective of whether they are Muslims or Christians.

[Peres] Jerusalem is open to everyone for religious purposes, but there will be never be a political division.

[DER SPIEGEL] The only effect your tough stance has is to make 'Arafat appear to be the Israelis' servant. Why have you not permitted Palestinian elections yet? According to the Oslo treaty, they should have taken place a long time ago.

[Peres] 'Arafat insists that all Israeli troops be withdrawn from Palestinian population centers beforehand. We have seen the consequences that would have. The people in Gaza danced on the streets following the Bet Lid attack. We cannot withdraw our army before our security is guaranteed.

[DER SPIEGEL] Is that also the reason you have not released the Palestinian prisoners?

[Peres] Yes, some of those who were released became terrorists again.

[DER SPIEGEL] There are also other agreements that Israel has failed to fulfill, such as secure transit routes for Palestinians between Gaza and the Jericho region.

[Peres] The Palestinians have not kept to everything they promised. They have, for example, employed considerably more police than are permitted under the treaty. Nevertheless, they still do not have terrorism under control. If 'Arafat cannot achieve that in Gaza, why should we give him the West Bank? We are not undermining his position, but neither are we going to do anything prematurely. It is now a question of both sides taking one step at a time.

[DER SPIEGEL] How would Israel react if 'Arafat were to lose power to radical forces, to Hamas for example? Would that represent the end of the peace process?

[Peres] I doubt that the radical opponents of peace will take part in the elections. Someone who murders does not seek a majority in the population.

[DER SPIEGEL] Would you talk to them then?

[Peres] They would not talk to us.

[DER SPIEGEL] You have to present some successes in order to win the next parliamentary elections in Israel. You have to demonstrate that the path that has been followed since Oslo has paid off for Israel. However, if you suspend the negotiations with the PLO, you could lose on both the peace and the election fronts.

[Peres] If I were faced with the choice of winning peace or winning the elections, then peace would be more important for me.

[DER SPIEGEL] If elections were to take place today, you would not obtain a majority according to the polls. What would happen to the peace process if the right were to reassume control of the government?

[Peres] Opinion polls are like perfume. Pleasant to smell, but dangerous to drink. We have to follow our course. The peace process is irreversible. You cannot make a river flow uphill, and there is no dam high enough to stop a historic flood.

[DER SPIEGEL] Minister, thank you for talking to us.

Rabin, Peres Meet CSCE Chief on NPT Signing

TA0603124995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will hold consultations this evening on the issue of displaced persons [DP's] from the 1967 war, prior to the summit meeting among the Egyptian, Jordanian, and Israeli foreign ministers and a PLO representative in Amman.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the first session will be informal. Israel's position is that the conditions in the territories preclude the absorption of the DP's, especially considering that the Camp David accords expressly stipulate that DP's not undermine public order.

Rabin and Peres held separate meetings this morning with Wilhelm Hoynck, the Hungarian secretary general of the CSCE, in which they discussed the issue of nuclear weapons, among other things. Foreign Minister Peres justified Israel's opposition to signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty with the fact that it is possible to deceive the existing supervisory mechanisms, citing Iran's and Iraq's activities as an example.

Rabin: Relations With U.S. 'Facing a Certain Problem'

TA0603165095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister says Israel's relations with the United States are facing a certain problem as a result of right wing activities.

In a meeting of the Labor Party Knesset faction, Rabin said that in the United States voices are being heard that express the need to reevaluate aid to Israel. There are even those who claim that aid to Israel should be channeled through the Defense Department's budget. There could be no graver mistake, the prime minister said. That is what we do not need because it will create a confrontation between us and the Pentagon. Everything we have built over 20 years will go down the drain, Rabin said. Who supports those meetings? The right wing in U.S. Jewry and in Israel.

Rabin Hopes Christopher Visit To Lead to Syrian Talks

TA0703114795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 7 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says he hopes this week's visit to the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will lead to a resumption of the Washington talks between Israel and Syria. The prime minister was speaking in Jerusalem this morning at the annual conference of American Reform Rabbis.

[Begin Rabin recording] I would not speculate on Syria. The day after tomorrow I am meeting Secretary Christopher. Let's hope that at least there will be the resumption of the talks in Washington the way they were conducted till about two months ago for over six months. [end recording]

On a separate issue, the prime minister again defended the proposal to station U.S. troops on the Golan Heights in the event of a peace treaty with Syria.

[Begin Rabin recording] I did not invent it. It was the late Prime Minister Menahem Begin—and he was followed by Prime Minister Shamir—that demanded that American forces will be stationed in the Sinai. They are stationed there for 16 years. None of them was injured, no doubt killed, in the Sinai. They are not there for the protection of Israel. We don't need them to fight our wars. They just monitor, as part of a multinational force, in which five other countries participate. They monitor the military annex of the peace treaty. Allow me to say that on the Golan Heights today is the safest area from terror of any part of Israel, including the border of peace with Egypt. Since we signed the peace treaty with Egypt we had infiltration of terrorism, we had smuggling of arms and high explosives. We don't have for 19 years any one clash, any one infiltration through the line between Syria and Israel on the Golan Heights. [end recording]

Rabinovich 'Convinced' Christopher Trip To 'Bring Answers'

TA0703122695 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Mar 95 p 3

[Report by Drora Perl in Washington]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will seek in Damascus answers to questions pertaining to the extent of President al-Asad's sincerity and commitment to reach peace with Israel, which will enable an assessment of the situation, perhaps the last one possible in the time left for the attainment of an Israeli-Syrian arrangement.

Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States and chief delegate to the negotiations with Syria, departs for Israel today to take part in the preparations for Christopher's arrival in Israel on Thursday.

Rabinovich abstained from using "sweeping" words such as critical or decisive when referring to Christopher's visit, but he attached great importance to it. "On the first level Christopher will try to get the talks between Israel and Syria back on track, and on a deeper level he will seek an answer to the question everybody is asking: Does Syria want and can it reach a peace agreement with Israel?," Rabinovich told DAVAR.

According to him, Christopher's mission is important in various respects. The visit takes places after almost a three-month pause in the talks, which were suspended by Syria, and the negotiations are not unlimited in terms of time. "One can argue where the red line lies, but clearly a red line will be crossed at a certain point," he added.

Rabinovich is convinced that Christopher will bring answers upon his return from Syria, but he refrained from elaborating on their content. "I am sure that we will know more then, and I hope that what we will learn will be positive," he said.

Russia's Shumeyko Tours East Jerusalem Unescorted

TA0603150195 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Peres and Deputy Minister Beilin today gave the first permit of its kind to a Russian diplomat to tour Jerusalem without a Foreign Ministry escort. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports:

[Segal] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres gave in to Russian Embassy pressure and in a rare move allowed a Russian official to tour holy sites in East Jerusalem without an Israeli Foreign Ministry escort.

The guest, Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the Russian Federation Council, arrived in Israel a short time ago. Prior to his arrival, a dispute erupted between the Foreign Ministry's Russia Department and the Russian Embassy in Israel. The Russians refused to have Foreign Ministry staffers escort Shumeyko during his tour of East Jerusalem. The Foreign Ministry suggested a compromise: Its people would accompany the Russian official during his tour of the Western Wall and the Jewish Quarter, and would allow him to conduct a private visit to the Muslim and Christian Quarters. The Russians turned down the proposal, and the Foreign Ministry's Russian Department threatened to call off the visit.

To their surprise, a few hours later they received instructions from the foreign minister's bureau saying the guest would tour East Jerusalem accompanied by the Russian Patriarch and would not be escorted by any official Israeli representative.

In reaction to this report, it was learned from Peres' bureau that Vladimir Shumeyko personally approached Peres and asked him to for permission to conduct a private visit during which he would pray at Christian holy sites and Peres agreed.

Foreign Ministry staffers criticized Peres' decision, saying such capitulation was unprecedented. They recalled the scandal following the cancellation of U.S. President Bill Clinton's visit to East Jerusalem and Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's evasion of her Israeli bodyguards during a visit to Orient House.

UK Rejects Request Not To Hold Meetings at Orient House

TA0603165295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Britain has rejected an Israeli request not to hold high-level meetings at Orient House in East Jerusalem during Prime Minister John Major's visit next week.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the Foreign Ministry called on the British Government not to hold meetings at Orient House, but the British rejected the call. It was also reported that Douglas Hogg, British minister of state for foreign affairs, will hold meetings at Orient House to Israel's displeasure.

UN Envoy Meets Lebanese, Chinese Counterparts

TA0703065995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 7 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel's acting ambassador to the UN, Moshe Melamed, and Lebanon's ambassador met separately last night with the Chinese ambassador, who is the current president of the Security Council, to discuss the situation in Lebanon. The meetings followed the request by Oman to resolve the dispute over an Israeli naval blockade in south Lebanon. Melamed said that Israel is not acting against Lebanese fishing boats, but against Hizballah in an attempt to prevent their activities on land and sea. The Chinese ambassador said he would report on the talks to members of the Security Council, but a meeting of the Council would not be called at this stage.

Likud Concerned With Amman Talks on Refugees

TA0603165495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Likud Knesset caucus has voiced concern over the trip by Foreign Minister Peres to Amman. In a communique, the caucus says there is a danger of Foreign Minister Peres allowing Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip to be flooded with refugees. The Likud calls on Prime Minister Rabin to instruct Peres not to make any agreement on the return of the refugees.

Likud Knesset Member Ari'el Sharon says that even if Israel agrees to a small number returning, this will be a precedent and Israel will be unable to stop the process. [passage omitted]

Knesset Rejects No-Confidence Motion Over Economy

TA0603193095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tonight, the Knesset rejected—49 votes to 40—no-confidence motions by the Likud, the National Religious Party, and Tzomet over the government's economic policy. Two HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] Knesset members [MK's] abstained.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that during the debate several HADASH MK's and the Arab Democratic Party attacked General Antoine Lahd, the SLA [South Lebanese Army] commander, who sat in the visitors' gallery with his senior officers. MK's 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, Tamar Gozansky, and Salah Salim called the visitors traitors to their army and their nation. Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss returned order to the plenum and said it was an acute insult to the Knesset.

Gen. Lahd later told correspondents that he is no less Arab or Lebanese than anyone else in his country. He said he is aware of the views against him in some Israeli circles, but that he did not expect to be attacked during a visit to the Knesset.

Issues for Visits of U.S., UK Officials Reported

JN0703075695 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Mar 95 p 12

[Article by a staff reporter]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Jordan will host three and possibly four major international figures in the next two weeks, starting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Saturday and ending with U.S. Vice-President Al Gore on March 21.

British Prime Minister John Major arrives on March 14, U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry might be visiting Jordan on March 18, according to unconfirmed reports.

Mr. Christopher, who insisted on making a Middle East trip aimed at addressing the troubled peace process despite a health problem, is expected to arrive Saturday for a brief visit for a review of developments in the Jordanian-Israeli track on the peace process after the two countries signed a peace treaty on Oct. 26.

One of the key themes for his discussions here is expected to be the status of Jordan's request for economic and military assistance from the U.S.

Jordanian officials are expected to bring up the subject of the recent slashing of an administration proposal for $275 million in outlays to write off $488 million in Jordan's debts to the U.S.

U.S. President Bill Clinton called Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin last week to reassure him that the U.S. Administration was committed to ensuring the full allocation, reports said.

While this particular issue need not necessarily worry Jordan too much if only because the White House has ways and means to reinstate the full allocation in the Senate despite the reduction by a House of Representatives sub-committee, Jordanian leaders are also expected to voice their disappointment that the administration is proposing only $43 million in economic and military aid to Jordan in fiscal 1996.

Jordan has reportedly asked for $2.5 billion annually for the next 10 years.

Also expected to be touched during Mr. Christopher's talks here are preparations for the Amman economic summit scheduled to be held in October.

Jordan's military needs and the issue of American aid are also expected to figure high during talks with Defence Secretary Perry and Vice-President Gore, who will be making the trip to Jordan as part of a regional tour starting in Egypt on March 19.

Jordanian-British relations and means to expand economic cooperation and increase British investments in the kingdom are expected to top Jordanian leaders' talks with Mr. Major, who will be making his first visit as prime minister to Jordan.

Britain has canceled nearly $100 million of Jordan's official debts to the United Kingdom. That leaves around $400 million in Amman's obligations to the British government and government agencies. It is not clear whether the Major government is in a position to offer further relief to Jordan or is planning any more cancellation of Jordanian debts. Also unclear is whether the debts are of a nature that would allow for any form of relief.

Officials, Commentary Condemn U.S. Decision on Debt

Parliamentary Official Assails Decision

JN0603171495 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur, chairman of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, has stated that at this point in time in the Middle East peace process, when the region stands at a crossroad of either completing the peace process or having it suffer a setback, the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee surprises us with its decision on tackling Jordan's debts to the United States, contrary to what the peoples in the region had expected from the U.S. credibility in supporting and sponsoring peace. This decision scored a point in favor of the forces that are hostile to and seek to abort peace.

Dr. al-Nusur said that such a stand will make the pursuance of the peace process fraught with further perils of a setback and confirms that the isolationist forces control the U.S. decisionmaking. This also enhances the stand of those are who are skeptical about the usefulness of the peace process in general, and in particular on the Palestinian, and Syrian-Lebanese tracks.

The House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee chairman said that the superpowers' nonabidance by their momentous responsibilities heralds instability in this region and in other hotbeds of tension in the world in all fields, particularly in the economic field, and threatens the interests of all the parties.

Speaker: Decision 'Conflicts With Promises'

JN0703091795 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Mar 95 pp 1, 16

[Report by Nayif al-Muhaysin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Engineer Sa'd Hayil al-Surur, speaker of the Jordanian House of Representatives, has asserted that the U.S. House of Representatives' decision to reduce the second installment of Jordan's debt by $50 million instead of $275 million for 1995—as the U.S. Administration promised last year—conflicts with previous U.S. promises. He added that U.S. President Bill Clinton promised from the podium of the Jordanian

Parliament to help Jordan, not only by writing off its debts, but also by supporting it economically.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, al-Surur said: We thought that the U.S. Congress would adopt a positive stand in support of Jordan, especially since Jordan has played a positive and key role in supporting the peace process.

Al-Surur added: The U.S. Administration earlier said Jordan's debt was an issue that could be finalized easily. The U.S. Administration was also hoping to influence other creditor nations, including European countries and Japan, to write off Jordanian debts. However, the U.S. House of Representatives adopted a stand that conflicts with these policies and the agreement reached about writing off Jordanian debts.

Al-Surur expressed the hope that U.S. policy would be in favor of helping Jordan and fulfilling the promises made by the U.S. Administration and U.S. officials by writing off Jordanian debts and contributing positively to supporting its economy. He added: The U.S. House of Representatives' decision came as a surprise. We had thought that this issue would be viewed positively. Actually, we had expected Jordanian debts to be written off quickly.

For his part, Dr. Hashim al-Dabbas, chairman of the Financial Committee of the House of Representatives, said: We had hoped and expected the United States would relieve Jordan of all its debts, as it did with sisterly Egypt. In fact, we were expecting further aid, as is the case with Egypt, which receives $2 billion annually.

Al-Dabbas added: This stand is a show of ingratitude for Jordan's role in advancing the peace process and achieving a just peace in the region, especially since Jordan's positions have greatly contributed to opening the door for peace in the region.

Al-Dabbas pointed out that U.S. President Bill Clinton told the Jordanian Parliament that Jordan would not be left alone without economic support. He said that the United States would support Jordan. U.S. officials also reiterated this stand during their meetings with Jordanian officials. The United States went even a step further when it sought to influence other countries to relieve Jordan of its debts.

Al-Dabbas said: We cannot say that U.S. credibility has changed. We hope that Jordan will work on various fronts and use its influence to make the United States and other countries—whose debts Jordan has managed to reschedule—write off these debts.

Decision Termed 'Step Against Peace'

JN0703093695 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Mar 95 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "One-Sided Peace!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We did not seek peace for a reward, especially since we have rights that had been wrested from us and we must work responsibly to restore these rights to land and water, and most importantly our right to security, tranquility, progress, and stability.

However, peace is also a means rather than an end in itself. It is a means, unlike any other, to achieve all these objectives and to enable all people to achieve their basic rights to dignity, knowledge, food, medicine, and to entering this era. All forms of humiliation, ignorance, poverty, sickness, backwardness, and persecution are fertile soil for feelings of hatred to grow and for all mad desires hostile to peace, security, stability, and progress to be consecrated.

We say this as we face a strange and irresponsible stand adopted by the Republican majority in the U.S. Congress, not because it voted against increasing U.S. aid to Jordan or because it refused to reduce Jordan's debts, but because it openly demonstrated a step against peace. We are not after a reward, but we refuse to be punished for our efforts to achieve peace. We also reject the turning of an important issue such as that of peace in the Middle East into an arena for settling scores between the Democratic U.S. Administration and the Republican legislative authority. This method of settling scores is supposed to be eliminated completely when it comes to an important, noble, and extremely sensitive issue such as peace. If no U.S. politician wants to see clearly the present situation and the possibilities for the future, then this inability should prompts us to say that the stand on U.S. aid to Jordan and on Jordanian debts to the United States is one that supports and encourages all efforts hostile to peace and is both a direct and indirect adoption of extremist feelings.

What happened in the U.S. Congress is a frank call for reconsidering many issues. Washington cannot be a cosponsor of peace while its political administration is exercising enormous pressures against any UN Security Council resolution that calls for condemning or halting Israeli settlement building in the occupied Palestinian territories and then its legislative authority comes a few days later and punishes the Jordanian policy toward peace. Indeed, this is taking place on the eve of the international summit on social development, which aims at dealing responsibly with the suffering of most of the international community.

The war has exhausted us and we paid a dear price for it. However, it was an honorable struggle against occupation, aggression, and expansion. We cannot leave our trenches to go after humiliation and deprivation. A peace that is unacceptable to the people is destined to die a quick death. Along with peace, people need dignity, food, knowledge, and medicine. Otherwise, what is the value of a one-sided peace?!

Lahd Calls Israeli Security Zone Control 'Occupation'

TA0603150495 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 6 Mar 95

[Report by correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz]

[FBIS Translated Text] General Antoine Lahd, commander of the SLA [South Lebanese Army], today described Israel's control of the security zone as occupation. Lebanon will have no voice of its own as long as part of it is occupied by the Syrians and another part of the security zone is under Israeli occupation, Gen. Lahd told journalists during a visit to Jerusalem.

Commenting on the SLA's doubts about Israel's continued commitment in the wake of a peace process, he said that he believes Israel's leaders will not stab the Lebanese in the back.

Israeli Shelling, Resistance Attack Reported

NC0603090295 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Zionist naval blockade of the southern coast is continuing amid the enemy's escalated attacks on villages. The enemy navy continues to fire at fishing boats whenever fishermen try to do their work on the high seas.

The occupation forces escalated their acts of aggression yesterday evening. Shortly after 1800 yesterday, they bombarded the army's empty barracks in al-Nabatiyah, many neighborhoods in al- Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, and the outskirts of Kafr Rumman with 155-mm shells from al-Zaffatah position.

At 1930, the occupation forces in Bra'shit and (?Muhaybib) directed artillery fire at the outskirts of [placename indistinct], Bra'shit, and 'Ayta al-Jabal.

Shortly after 2030, the suburbs of [placename indistinct] came under 155-mm artillery fire from the enemy post in Yarin. At approximately 1200, helicopters flew over Kafra and Yatar and reached as far as the Tyre coast. Zionist boats have not been absent from the Tyre coast. They continue to prevent fishermen from sailing and use their floodlights to search for them at night.

Yesterday morning, the occupation forces fired at boats which tried to break the blockade and go to sea to earn their living. None of the fishermen was hurt and they returned to the shore, leaving their nets at sea.

Machine-gun fire was heard at sea off Tyre at dawn today. It is not yet known whether the fire was directed against the fishermen or a [word indistinct] to scare them.

Shelling with 81- and 120-mm artillery was reported directed at the outskirts of al-Mansuri town at dawn today, originating from the enemy position in (al-Hardawn). The enemy forces in this position raked nearby valleys after illuminating the area with flares.

In retaliation for Zionist attacks on peaceful citizens in villages along the occupied strip, a support unit of the Islamic resistance at 0630 today pounded the enemy post in Bi'r Kallab, scoring direct hits. Shortly after 0700, the Iqlim al-Tuffah hills and the suburbs of 'Ayn Bu Siwar and Jarju' came under 155-mm artillery shelling from the enemy post in al-Zaffatah. The intermittent shelling is still in progress.

Elsewhere, Islamic resistance sources affirmed that one of its groups discovered an explosive charge on the (?Bra'shit) road this morning as it was on patrol in the area. The device had been planted by a Zionist unit overnight. The resistance's engineering unit dismantled it.

EU Stand on Israeli 'Siege' Reported

JN0603225095 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Mar 95

[Report by Salim Badawi in Brussels]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At the end of a marathon day of bilateral and expanded meetings, the European-Lebanese Cooperation Council witnessed the rebuilding of relations between Lebanon and the EU on new bases. [passage omitted]

The meeting of the European-Lebanese Cooperation Council has been an occasion for the EU to reiterate support for Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

In this respect, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe in reply to a question by our radio said that al-Ta'if agreement and UN resolutions on Lebanon should be implemented, particularly Resolution 425 in a manner that will make all the foreign forces leave Lebanon within the framework of the comprehensive peace settlement.

The issue of the Israeli siege imposed on Lebanon's southern coast was also discussed at the Brussels meetings. The Lebanese and European sides asked Israel to immediately end these practices. The French foreign minister said that the Israeli authorities were informed of the EU's stand rejecting this naval siege imposed on some Lebanese coasts and ports. But, the French minister declined to say what was the Israeli reply to this European stand. [passage omitted]

Al-Hariri Leaves for Talks With Syrian Officials

NC0603203895 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri left for Damascus tonight where he will meet Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam for consultations on the latest developments.

Assembly Condemns Israeli 'Aggression' Against Lebanon

JN0603202495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The People's Assembly Bureau members and the Arab and Foreign Relations Committee have held a joint meeting under People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah. The meeting was devoted to discussing the large-scale aggression which is being launched by the Israeli occupation forces against southern Lebanon, which use weak pretexts to justify their new aggressive measures. The following statement was issued at the end of the meeting:

The People's Assembly in the Syrian Arab Republic is following with extreme concern the large-scale military aggression which is being launched by the Israeli occupation forces against southern Lebanon and the tragic results of this aggression on all levels. It is as if this aggression has come to pave the way for a premeditated Israeli plan to strike at Lebanon's national unity, security, and stability, and to undermine the strategic Syrian-Lebanese cohesion.

While renewing its denunciation of all forms of terrorism against innocent civilians; the perpetration of all criminal methods, including killing, destruction, kidnapping, imprisonment, torture, and premeditated violation of Lebanon's sovereignty and independence; and the flagrant violation of the international and humanitarian resolutions, charters, and norms, the People's Assembly stresses that the Israeli aggressive escalation at this time in particular is aimed at obstructing the peace process and introducing additional complications into the Syrian and Lebanese tracks to achieve the objective of dividing the negotiations and implementing the Israeli arrangements and ambitions, foremost of which are hegemony, the entrenchment of occupation, and the dictation of conditions which guarantee Israel's full control over stands and decisions, something which undermines the simplest conditions of national and pan-Arab sovereignty.

It has become clear that for more than 25 days, Israel has been escalating its aggression in a new way and with a new weapon of human repression embodied by the imposition of a naval siege on the south Lebanese ports on weak pretexts. This siege has confiscated the sources of livelihood and life for thousands of southerners; brought their life to a halt; disturbed the efforts to improve their life after Lebanon has restored its health, security, and stability; weakened the development and reconstruction programs; and created a state of confusion and worry which, eventually, serves the Israeli plan to tighten Tel Aviv's grip on Lebanon's policy.

It is no secret to anyone that Israel has once again violated the provisions of the international law and the states' rights to their sovereignty over their territorial waters, using weak pretexts which have been foiled, as usual, as a result of Israel's insistence on ignoring the international resolutions, particularly Resolution 425 of 1978 which calls for its unconditional withdrawal from southern Lebanon and western al-Biqa'.

The people's Assembly in the Syrian Arab Republic strongly denounces and condemns these new aggressive Israeli measures, and reiterates that Syria, under the leadership of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, will continue, as it always has, to adopt a policy toward Lebanon based on brotherhood, common life, and mutual interests. It will continue its support for Lebanon—people, parliament, and government—to implement the will of the international community, the resolutions of international legitimacy, and the principles which were adopted as the bases of the Madrid conference and the Washington negotiations, particularly Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, which call for a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, and for the implementation of the land-for-peace principle. Syria reiterates that the just and comprehensive solution, which restores the usurped rights and the occupied territories, is the only solution which guarantees security and stability in the region.

Syria stresses its concern about Lebanon's security and stability, the liberation of its occupied territories, and the imposition of sovereignty and authority over all Lebanon. It also reiterates its support for the Lebanese Government and popular efforts to confront the occupation. It stresses its decisive support for the Lebanese resistance to liberate the occupied territories in southern Lebanon and western al-Biqa', for it is a legitimate human right for the people to resist occupation. This is clearly and frankly recognized by the international charters and norms, something which foils Israel's pretexts for justifying its aggression against Lebanon.

The People's Assembly in the Syrian Arab Republic calls on the fraternal Arab parliaments and the friendly world parliaments, particularly the Arab Parliamentary Union and the Inter- Parliamentary Union, to exert all forms of pressures to stop the brutal Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon, and to force Israel to implement the will of the international community and the international resolutions to achieve security, stability, and peace in our region in implementation of the principles which serve the interests of all world peoples.

The People's Assembly in the Syrian Arab Republic lauds the heroic actions of the Lebanese national resistance to the aggressors and their agents, and salutes the martyrs of the Lebanese resistance in southern Lebanon, and the steadfastness of our people who, through their great faith, are confronting the arsenal of aggression, destruction, and crime.

Radio Commentary Ridicules Rabin Golan Proposal

JN0603163195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1234 GMT 6 Mar 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Against the backdrop of the Israeli military escalation against Lebanon, and the daily and continuous political escalation by the Israeli officials, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will return to the Middle East in a new tour in search of the missing peace. We will not jump to conclusions to prejudge Christopher's expected tour, during which we hope he will bring with him new ideas to give a push forward to the stumbling peace process. However, signs from Israel do not call for optimism. The situation in the region is very tense as a result of an Israeli policy which has been continuing for many years, and in which we have not seen any tangible change.

The atmosphere we are currently experiencing; namely, the peace negotiations atmosphere, should have introduced a big change into the way of thinking in Israel, and consequently, should have changed the Israeli political discourse. The aggression with which Israel grew up is continuing. This is proved daily in southern Lebanon. The problem here does not lie in the Lebanese people's resistance, but in the Israeli occupation which causes this resistance. Indifference to the international norms and charters can be seen in the siege imposed on the Lebanese coasts. This is a measure which is neither recognized by any law nor accepted by the international community, its committees, and institutions. Ignoring the resolutions which were issued by the United Nations is still the most prominent banner of the Tel Aviv leaders' policy. The proof is Israel's rejection of the bases of the peace process, which are derived from resolutions adopted by the United Nations and accepted as the basis for the solution or settlement in the Middle East. Added to all this is Israel's continued traditional and nuclear armament policy and its refusal to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty at a time when Israel should work for peace. He who works for peace should not continue the armament policy.

Thus, amid such an atmosphere, Christopher will return to the region in a new U.S. attempt to save the peace process from its current impasse. When we say impasse, we do not mean the Syrian and Lebanese tracks only, but the entire peace process. Even on the Palestinian track which they have promoted and considered a great achievement—this track, regardless of how fragile it may be, is experiencing a serious impasse. Israel is even threatening to stop talks with the self-rule authority if this authority does not execute the Israeli orders and carry out a repressive policy against the Palestinian people who are resisting the Oslo agreement and occupation.

On top of all this, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin made statements prior to Secretary Christopher's tour, which will put sticks in the wheels of the U.S. diplomacy, and in which he reiterated the idea of partial and very limited withdrawal on the pretext of testing Syria's desire for peace. Rabin's proposal is based on the Israeli forces' withdrawal from a small area in the Golan as a trial in the first two to three years, providing that Syria, in return, opens its borders and exchanges ambassadors. We do not believe that Rabin is serious when he comes up with such a proposal, for he knows better than anyone else that Syria can accept neither the form nor content of this proposal. However, if political maneuvering is the objective of such statements by the Israeli prime minister, then we say that he has failed in the wording of his proposal. If he means to obstruct the international efforts, particularly the U.S. efforts, then such proposals will not only obstruct these efforts, but also freeze the entire peace process. Syria will not enter into an auction or a compromise when the issue is related to its land and rights. As for testing Syria's intentions and desire for peace, the whole world knows that Syria is sincere about the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Neither Rabin nor his government members can cast doubts on Syria's credibility.

Syria has been very clear throughout more than three years of negotiations with Israel. It wants full peace in return for full withdrawal. This equation is not subject to any discussion or argument. Naturally, any disruption of any part of this equation will destroy this equation as a whole. If the Israeli security pretexts or conditions are justified by the Israelis, when in fact the opposite is true, the Arab security demands are backed by facts. The Arabs are the ones who have been exposed to aggression throughout half a century, and until now, their security has always been threatened. Despite this, the Arab demands are confined only to parallel and equal security measures on both sides of the border after the completion of the Israeli withdrawal. Syria is ready for full peace in accordance with this clear equation. When Israel is ready for such peace, it knows well how to make an effective contribution to achieving the aspired peace.

Press Terms Proposal 'New Trial Balloon'

JN0703071695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 7 Mar 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-BA'TH says: As part of its traditional efforts to sabotage any international effort in particular, and to destroy the entire peace process in general, Israel has prefaced the tour of U.S. Secretary of State Christopher with a barbaric aggression against southern Lebanon that has been going on for weeks. Israel has also launched a new trial balloon by saying that it is ready to withdraw from a very limited area on the Golan in exchange for full peace relations and for a trial period that extends to three years after which the fate of the rest of the Golan will be decided.

AL-BA'TH adds: This Israeli proposal is rejected in part and parcel. Israel knows that Syria will never accept anything short of full and comprehensive withdrawal from all of the occupied Arab territories of the Golan and southern Lebanon. This is the fundamental principle on which the peace process was launched. Syria adheres to this principle in letter and spirit.

The paper asserts that separate deals, partial solutions, and incomplete and distorted peace will only create further tension, chaos, and deterioration on the Arab level and lead to further Israeli expansion at the expense of the interests of the nation and Arab national security.

The facts are very clear. If the United States truly wants to save the peace process and achieve the just and comprehensive peace that it advocates, it should begin to play a concrete role by providing a mechanism that can advance the peace process. It can do this by putting pressure on Israel to force it to adhere to the resolutions of international legitimacy and to implement their content in full.

Comments on the same issue, TISHRIN says: When it deals with the Arab parties that are concerned with the peace process, the Rabin government adheres to the argument that each of these parties should pass a trial period during which each party should convince Israel that it wants peace. The paper asserts that these Israeli tests eventually force the Arabs to abandon all their political, economic, and military options. Thus, they are left with one option, namely, to submit to the will of Israel and enter the ring of Israeli settlement while deprived even of their will and resolve.

The paper says that what Israel has proposed during the peace negotiations, as well as the results of separate deals, all confirm that the Rabin government has no intention at all of achieving a just and true peace in the region. Israel is practically seeking to achieve what it failed to achieve through war, namely, to dominate the region through peaceful means by using glittering slogans, such as cooperation, normalization, and establishing a new Middle East order.

Afghanistan

Government Forces Bombard Areas of Kabul

Mazari Artillery Sites Hit Heavily

LD0603171295 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The artillery and rocket positions of 'Abdol 'Ali Mazari were heavily bombarded today by the Islamic Army Air Force. A responsible security source told a BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY [BIA] military correspondent that Mazari's men have targeted residential areas of Kabul city with rockets and heavy artillery shells for some time and disrupted the tranquillity of Kabul city residents over the last days of the holy month of Ramadan and during 'Id al-Fitr days. Kabul residents repeatedly asked the Islamic army forces to rid them of the scourge of Mazari.

Islamic army warplanes were instructed this morning to destroy Mazari artillery and rocket positions and end his threat to Kabul. Quoting security sources, BIA correspondents in western areas of Kabul report to us that the Islamic army forces have broken through the first Mazari defense line and have captured many areas. Several of the enemy's rocket positions were destroyed, and heavy loss of life has been inflicted on them. Mazari's men have lost morale and are escaping their trenches and abandoning their weapons. According to Kabul security sources, due to the threat posed by Mazari's band, the fighting will continue until their complete elimination. At the request of the esteemed residents of Kabul, this last nest of corruption will be destroyed.

[Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto at 1530 GMT on 6 March, in a later report, adds: "Mazari's men fired heavy rockets into the residential areas of Kabul today. A security commission source told the Bakhtar Information Agency that Mazari's men martyred 17 defenseless residents of Kabul this morning and last night by firing more than 100 rockets into the residential areas of Kabul; they wounded 58 others. Material damage as well as heavy loss of life was caused by the rocket barrage by Mazari's men into many of the wards of Kabul. Thirteen houses have been damaged. The injured were quickly taken to hospitals and treated.]

100 Killed or Injured in Shiite Raids

LD0703114395 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kabul hospital sources announced that at least 100 people have been killed or injured as a result of air and ground attacks carried out by Afghan government troops on the western part of Kabul. From early morning yesterday, troops of Afghanistan's government began attacking the positions of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party] in the western part of Kabul with artillery and tanks, from four directions. Afghanistan's government fighter planes also bombarded several times the Shiite residential areas and a Red Cross hospital in the western part of Kabul.

A spokesman for the International Red Cross in Kabul said that the surgery ward of the hospital has been completely destroyed.

A spokesman for Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami in Islamabad said: The forces of this group will defend their positions with all their might.

The latest available reports say that air and ground attacks by Afghanistan's government forces against the positions of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami in the western part of Kabul have been continuing today too.

Dostam Soldiers Surrender in Samangan Province

LD0603205795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, four ringleaders of Dostam's militia and 180 of their men surrendered to the Islamic army in Samangan province. Security sources reported to the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY that Commander Rahmatollah, Commander Jora Qol, Commander Amir Mohammad, and Commander Jamaloddin—from the villages of Dehnazar-e Khord, [name indistinct], and Urolabek in Hazrat Soltan subdistrict—joined this morning with the mojahedin of the 7th Army Corp. The people who surrendered to the state were armed with three mortars, three ZK1 machine guns, nine RPG rocket launchers, seven PK machine guns, 140 Kalashnikovs, one radio, and 20 walkie-talkie sets.

Council of Ministers Holds Session on Developments

LD0603210795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Presided over by esteemed Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Mohammad 'Ali Javid, minister of planning, a high session of ministers was held this morning. The press office of the premiership reported to the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY that the chairman opened the session with a report to the members of the cabinet on the political-military situation and on recent developments. A number of ministers expressed their views in this regard.

The high session of ministers discussed the proposals of some ministries and made necessary decisions. At the request of the Ministry of Planning, all ministries were asked to submit the draft of their development plans very soon to the Ministry of Planning in order to prepare the development program and the budget for the year 1374 [beginning 21 March 1995].

On the proposal of the Ministry of Higher and Vocational Education, a commission was set up with esteemed Hamidullah Tarzi, counsellor minister in economic affairs, and esteemed Counsellor Minister Abdol

Hay Elahi, as a member, and were assigned to take urgent measures in this respect and to report regularly to the high session of ministers. All ministries and administrations will not spare any cooperation.

U.S. Assistance Sought With Anti-Drug Program

LD0503203395 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic State of Afghanistan's measures, which are in line with Islamic principles, have not been correctly reflected in the world. A BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent writes:

Reports have been published by the world mass media recently about a resolution of the U.S. State Department that Afghanistan has been included in the countries that are on that country's economic sanctions list. Recent realities in our country have not been taken into account in this regard. Since the victory of the Islamic revolution, the Islamic State of Afghanistan has set up a high commission for the campaign against drugs. In southwestern areas, many tonnes of drugs have been destroyed, and the cultivation of poppy was banned in the eastern provinces of the country. Since its establishment, the high commission for the campaign against drugs has asked the international community several times to help it in the campaign against drugs. The head of the commission says that no country has helped it in this task. Some are of the opinion that insofar as the international community fails to grant the necessary funds for the campaign against drugs [words indistinct] because regions of Afghanistan are uncontrollable. On the one hand, the continuation of war has led to obstructing fruitful measures with problems. It is to be mentioned that humanitarian aid to Afghanistan has nothing to do with this problem because aid has always been used to remove the problems of the repatriation of Afghan refugees' and for other necessary matters. The Islamic State of Afghanistan and our Muslim people are ready for the campaign against the drug [words indistinct] that international aid can be an effective way to prevent the cultivation, production, and smuggling of the drugs and to restore peace in Afghanistan. This requires great financial capabilities. It is said that U.S. and British authorities have shown readiness to help the farmers of the areas where poppy is grown so that they will be persuaded to switch to other crops.

Similarly, in 1986 the United States wanted to allocate 40 million dollars for the campaign against drugs in Afghanistan. If this decision is implemented in Afghanistan under Islamic sovereignty, it will no doubt have fruitful results. The people of Afghanistan hope that the U.S. Government will not only not cease its humanitarian aid, but the harsh conditions in our country also require an increase in aid to enable the Afghans to limit the grounds for poppy growing in various parts of the country by reconstructing their local economies.

Bangladesh

Total of 902 Peacekeepers Return From Somalia

BK0403153495 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 4 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A total of 902 members of the Bangladesh Battalion, including 49 officials working for the UN peacekeeping force in Somalia, have returned to the country. A press release issued by the Inter-Service Public Relations says that the last flight chartered by the United Nations carrying Bangladesh soldiers landed at Zia International Airport last night.

Earlier, two special flights of the United Nations carrying Bangladesh soldiers arrived in the country.

India

Paper Requests U.S. Explanation of Uranium Bag

BK0603122895 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 4 Mar 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Ask the U.S."]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre has declared that the bag sent to it for examination did not contain uranium. This must have been a great relief for both the Rajasthan and Punjab police and the entire anti-terrorist force in the country. As we all know, this bag was recovered during a raid on the hide-out of the Khalistan Liberation Force in Jaipur. Even if the bag had contained uranium, the Khalistani terrorists could not have made the bomb. So far, humanity is fortunate that no person anywhere has been able to make the bomb. However, if the terrorists had uranium they could have used it in carrying out subversive activities on a very large scale and killed hundreds of people. After all, about seven kilograms of RDX, a very dangerous explosive, was recovered from them. It was our good fortune that the Khalistani terrorists could not use even RDX, while kidnapping Rajendra Mirdha, the son of the Member of Parliament Ram Niwas Mirdha. Not only did this kidnapping end with the safe release of Rajendra Mirdha, the Rajasthan and Punjab police, without any loss of life, also managed to kill a dreaded terrorist, Navjeet Singh Kadian, the self-appointed mastermind of the decaying Khalistan Liberation Force, and who was planning to make Rajasthan the center of his terrorist activities.

Fortunately, this episode ended happily. However, it has left in its trail a very big question. The leather bag sent to the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and which was eventually found not to contain uranium had "Uranium 235" embossed on it. Inscribed were also the "made in USA" trademark and "State Christlater 235 MR 1001.. packet number 039, date of manufacture 1st Nov 1990 and expiry 1st Nov 2000." Other marks could not be deciphered. But the burning question is how this bag, which was used to keep U-235 in the United States, reached the Khalistani terrorists. That it was found not to contain Uranium is of little importance. After all, uranium is not such an ordinary material that one may just put it in a leather bag and carry it around. This sort of nuclear material is always kept under tight security and even intelligence agencies cannot obtain it easily. Hence, there is not much sense in speculating that terrorists might have used it to carry some other material or that some smugglers might have used it. On the other hand, this bag would have made smuggling quite difficult. So, it appears that either this was discarded somewhere in the United States or it must have contained uranium to be delivered to Pakistan or another country secretly trying to manufacture the bomb. Whatever the case, the Indian Government must ask U.S. Administration not only about the recovery of this American-made bag from an active Indian terrorist organization, but also how the U.S., which has all through been pontificating on the strict vigilance of nuclear material has been found wanting in this case. Either uranium is being smuggled out from nuclear installations or these installations are becoming careless in guarding this dreadful material with the capacity to kill thousands. The United States has appointed itself as world's super cop and has stopped countries like India from making the bomb even for self-defense by binding them to the treaty. This bag ought to be shown to the United States to ascertain how it reached the Khalistani terrorists' hands. The Indian Government must publicize to the the nation whatever information it receives from the United States about this bag.

Article Examines U.S. Policy on South Asia

BK0703105795 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 7 Mar 95 p 9

[Article by K.P. Nayar under the rubric "Diplomacy": "Raphel's 'even-handed' agenda for South Asia"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Clinton administration has given a new meaning to the word "even-handedness." If the elaborate media briefing given by Robin Raphel, the US assistant secretary of state for South Asia, on Thursday is any indication, "even-handedness" no longer means just being fair or impartial.

Washington's pursuit of its national interests in South Asia is being camouflaged as "even-handedness." What Ms Raphel said in Washington last week deserves greater scrutiny in New Delhi than what it has received so far for other reasons as well: her statements suggest that halfway through the Clinton presidency, after several hiccups, America's South Asia policy for the past-Cold War era is being consolidated.

If a pronounced 'tilt' towards Islamabad was the hallmark of Washington's policy towards the sub-continent during the Cold War, 'even-handedness' is to be the sheet anchor of this policy in the New World Order. For the Americans, who are unabashedly pursuing their national interests under the guise of such even-handedness, the benefits of such a camouflage are two-fold. It enables the Americans to take Pakistan on board the New World Order. At the same time, such a policy effectively stifles any dissenting voices in India against closer association with or concessions to the US.

There are elements to this policy which, on the face of it, are not directly linked to the US. These elements are like the missing pieces in a puzzle; pieces which are essential to an understanding of what American has been trying to do in South Asia since the end of the Cold War.

Since the beginning of this year, three events have taken place in Pakistan, which received scant attention in this country. First, the President of the UAE [United Arab Emirates], Shaikh Zayid Bin-Sultan, who financed not only the now-bankrupt Bank of Credit and Commerce International, but also part of Islamabad's military machine, visited Islamabad after a long period, reviving a critical politico-military relationship.

Second, the UAE and Pakistan agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on military cooperation, it will be finalised during the forthcoming visit to Pakistan by the chief of the UAE armed forces, who is a son of Shaikh Zayid. The UAE will be the first member state of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council to sign such an MoU with Pakistan.

Thirdly, Islamabad has gifted to Oman, 100 acres of land in the strategic port area of Gwadar on the southern coast of Pakistan. The Benazir Bhutto government has so far been unable to offer any credible explanation for the gift or its purpose.

Since nothing of any strategic importance takes place in the Arab Gulf states without a nod of approval from the US, India must view these developments as part of efforts in the long run to create a durable security arrangement for the Gulf. When Pakistan sent its forces to fight for the liberation of Kuwait, Islamabad expected that it would be incorporated into any future defence arrangement that the Americans would like to put in place in the Gulf region.

For the men in uniform who actually run Pakistan, it has been a four-year wait, but at the end of it, Pakistan is surely being groomed for a future security role in the Gulf. Simultaneously, after a three-year stalemate, Pakistan has been able to find its way back to the centre-stage in Afghanistan in a way that clearly suits Washington's interests there.

Ms Raphel made it clear last week that these and other "shared concerns" would be discussed and developed further when Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto visits Washington early next month. The US official said Ms Bhutto wanted Pakistan to be a model of a progress, modern Islamic state even though she may not have achieved that goal in true perfection yet.

"We believe that it is very important for us to do whatever we can to support that and I would argue that this is very important to everybody in the region and not just us," Ms Raphel emphasised.

She had good words for India in equal measure, especially on human rights and the steps initiated by New Delhi to resume the political process in Jammu and Kashmir. But on these issues, the US was merely following the rest of the world, which had already accepted the Indian initiatives for what they are.

The best example of her even-handedness was when Ms Raphel balanced her criticism of Pakistan for supporting Kashmiri separatists from across he border with an assertion that the whole of Kashmir was disputed territory. The assistant secretary was, in effect, repeating her contention that the instrument of accession of Kashmir was not acceptable to the US but thanks to America's quiet diplomacy, this time there was no furore in India.

On the crucial issue of expansion of the UN Security council, Ms Raphel was plainly contemptuous of the Indian claim for a permanent seat. The US position on this issue was reflective of the post-Cold War realities and not just the size of a country. Besides, India's relations with Pakistan would have to be discussed when the issue comes up in the Security Council, she said.

Official denials notwithstanding, it is now widely accepted that both Pakistan and India have made significant concessions to the US in the post-Cold War order in security matters, especially missile control and nuclear non-proliferation.

Pakistan, it is clear, has benefited a good deal by making those concessions, but India has very little yet to show by way of any quid pro quo for its part of the bargain. What is worse, India is being equated with Pakistan in every sphere, something that did not happen even during the Nixon administration when Indo-US relations were at their nadir.

Commentary Views Outcome of Meeting With PRC

BK0603160795 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 6 Mar 95

[Commentary by Sydhakar Nair]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Evolving further confidence building measures was in focus when India and China met yet another time in New Delhi last weekend to take steps to resolve the complex Sino-Indian border dispute. The two countries have decided to establish two additional points of contact at the 4,000 km long border to facilitate meetings between the military personnel. While one will be at Nathuy La in the Sikkim sector, where the Indian and Chinese troops are the eyeball-to-eyeball proximity, the other will be at a point to be agreed in the middle sector of the border areas. This decision is significant since India and China have time and again recognized the importance of effective confidence building measures to prevent any tension at the border. At present, the border personnel hold scheduled and flag meetings at Bum La in the eastern sector and Spannagur in the western sector. The India-China Expert Group, which took this decision at its third meeting in New Delhi, expressed satisfaction that such measures already in place between them were looking well.

The Expert Group reviewed the progress during the first two sessions held in February and April last year and deliberated on the tasks assigned to group. Under the agreement, the maintenance of peace and tranquility along the Line of Actual Control [LAC] in the India-China border areas. [sentence as heard]

The two countries can draw comfort from the fact that the situation along the India-China Line of Actual Control was peaceful since the signing of peace and tranquility agreement during the visit of the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, to China in September 1993. The Expert Group was set up after the signing of this historic agreement to assist the foreign secretary-level Joint Working Group [JWG] to find a solution to the vexed border issue. At the recent Delhi meeting, Mr. Shiv Shankar Menon, joint secretary in the External Affairs Ministry of India, and Mr. Wang Changyi, deputy director general of Asian Department in the Chinese Foreign Affairs Ministry, led their respective delegations, which included diplomats, military officials, and cartographers. The mandate of the Expert Group include assisting the Joint Working Group in clarification of the Line of Actual Control between India and China, reduction of military forces along the LAC, and other confidence building measures and verification methods.

India and China are seriously engaged to define the McMahon Line as there are differences of opinion regarding the LAC and varying interpretations of it. On the map, the McMahon Line is shown as a fairly thick line, but on the ground there are differing views as to where it demarcates the boundary between the two countries. The few descriptive details are available, but they are not sufficient to resolve the issue. India and China need to have greater coordination and make sincere efforts in this regard, since a solution of the border question is important in the overall context of regional peace and stability. A solution to this problem will also make a tranquil condition for people living in the border areas as well to promote bilateral trade.

In the New Delhi meeting, the two sides had a useful exchange of views on the draft prepared by the Indian side on prior notification of military exercises and prevention of air intrusion along the India-China LAC. The two countries have declared stopping of possible air violations of the border by the military planes in an accord to establish peace and tranquility along the Line of Actual Control. It is hoped that India and China will come out with specific steps to start mutual troop reduction along their border and avoid tension at places where the troops are at close proximity in the next meeting to be held in Beijing later this year. Before the meeting of JWG, however, India will have to apply the formula of equal and balanced security in its bilateral discussions with China while identifying the LAC and carrying out disengagement of forces. This is necessary to guarantee credibility in the security situation at the border and to eliminate elements of surprise.

South Korean Group Plans Range of Investments

BK0303140395 Delhi THE ASIAN AGE (THE BUSINESS AGE Supplement) in English 25 Feb 95 p 17

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, Feb. 24—South Korea's LG Group is planning a major entry into the Indian market with investments in a range of businesses, which will range from consumer electronics to highway construction.

This was stated by Mr. Chong Suk Lee, leader of the 25 member delegation currently visiting India to explore the possibilities of investing in the country, on Friday, while speaking at a meet organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry [CII] in the Capital. Mr. Lee compared India's liberalising economy to a "jumbo jet waiting for takeoff" and said that "We don't want to miss a seat on the plane."

LG which was formerly known as the Lucky Goldstar group, will explore prospects of investing in areas of consumer electronics, telecommunications, chemicals and petrochemicals, financial services and highway construction.

During the 10-day visit to India, the delegation will also scout for possible joint ventures taking advantage of India's expertise and abundant manpower in the field of computer software. Mr. Lee said. He said that the LG group, to an extent was responsible for South Korea's economic miracle, and in recent years had made investments worth about $700 million in China.

Till now the group's activities in India is restricted mainly to trading with a joint venture for producing colour television sets. "If we don't get into the Indian market now, we could be too late," said Mr. Lee, who paid eight visits to China last year but is on his first trip to India. He maintained that in the emerging scenario no company could ignore China and India, as the two accounted for nearly 40 per cent of the Asian trade.

Mr. Lee further said that the Lucky Goldstar Group, with 53 member companies, was interested in long-term business projects in the country which involved formation of subsidiaries and technology licences for manufacturing its products in the country. "We have no short-term objectives in India," Mr. Lee said. "We will follow the same step as in China and build up an investment presence in the market," he said, mentioning a possible investment of $70 million to build a highway in India.

Mr. Lee also said that till sometime back, South Korea was a poor country, but had made rapid strides in the last four years due to the government's liberalisation policies. He said that his country did not have the benefit of having vast natural resources, but certainly had good manpower, "which went a long way in building the country what it was today". In this regard he complimented the Indian government's liberalisation policies by saying that the "Indian government has liberalised more than the South Korean government".

South Korean companies have begun showing interest in doing business with India in the wake of three years of economic reforms opening the country's huge market to foreign investors. Korean investment in India increased from $10 million in 1993 to $56.6 million in January-October last year.

Welcoming the Korean delegation's willingness to invest in India, Mr. Gurpreet Singh of the CII said that the major difference between the economic policies of the two countries was that whereas India opted for self-reliance with the production of machineries for indigenous production of goods to cater to its vast domestic market, the same was not true with Korea. It realised fully well the scope of its domestic market and therefore went in full swing for the global market through maximising its exports. He praised the Koreans for their outright way of conducting business and said, "It is an easy country to do business with."

Automobile giant Daewoo is manufacturing passenger cars in collaboration with the DCM group in a high-profile joint venture, which would put its products on the road this year. The Confederation of Indian Industry described South Korea as a "reservoir of valuable technology for Indian business." "Apart from accessing a cheaper source of hi-tech, India can also provide a cost-effective base for producing low and medium-tech products.

Russia's Zhirinovskiy, Delegation Arrives

BK0603092295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Russian nationalist leader, Mr. Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, arrived in New Delhi last night on his first visit to India. The leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia is visiting India at the invitation of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations. Mr. Zhirinovsky is leading a 13-member parliamentary delegation of his party.

Progress Slow in Joint Ventures With Vietnam

BK0703033695 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 26 Feb 95 p 7

[Report by Nasima H. Khan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In September last year Indian businessman signed six joint ventures worth US$158 million with Vietnam. The MoUs [memorandums of understanding] signed during the prime minister, Mr

Narasimha Rao's visit to the country was the focus of much media attention. But five months after the event there has been little progress on the projects.

KEC International for instance had signed a MoU valued at US$7 million with Cam Pha Mechanical Factory of Vietnam for a transmission tower and turnkey transmission line project. But a senior official of the Madras-based Kunal Engineering Company says, "We are not considering investing in or exporting to Vietnam yet. Vietnam, at this stage, is still looking for exchange or barter deals."

For their part, officials of the Vietnam Export Import Corporation in Delhi feel Indian investment in Vietnam has been 'very limited', the only significant one being ONGC's US$41 million joint venture with Petrovietnam for off shore exploration.

What could be the reason for the less-than-keen attitude of industry towards investing in Vietnam? Land prices for one. Says an official at Ficci, "Indian companies have to compete with other foreign investors for land, which automatically goes to the highest bidder." And considering the beeline foreign companies are making for Vietnam, it is not surprising that Indian firms have to back out.

For a country ravaged by 20 years of war, land remains its major resource. And land, in fact, is the only equity, apart from a workforce. In which case, the DLF group, whose chairman accompanied Mr Rao on his tour, should have found the invitation to invest there attractive. DLF officials, however, say there is "no intention to invest in that country at this stage".

The major block to investment is the lack of guarantees on returns. Another problem is that Indian companies exploring the possibility of doing business there are not allowed to set up office in Vietnam until they have established businesses with local partners.

All this, however, has not deterred Nandan Gadgil, chairman of the Western India group. One of the group companies, Western Paques India has signed MoUs with the municipalities of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City to manage their waste. Gadgil has also signed an MoU to set up a sugar unit. "They have the cane, but no money to set up or buy a unit. So we are offering them the unit on a build, operate, lease and transfer basis. That way, they will be paying us for the unit over a period of time," adds Gadgil.

Commentary Hails 'Peace' Forum, Assails Pakistan

BK0403111995 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 4 Mar 95

[Commentary by INDIAN EXPRESS Senior Editor A.J. Phillip]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The two-day convention held under the banner of Pakistan-India People's Forum for Peace and Democracy in New Delhi on February 24 and 25 was a major attempt to bring the people of the two countries on a common platform. It marked the beginning of a people-to-people dialogue in which 100 citizens from each country—including human right activists, former civil servants, trade unionists, artists, scholars, and environmentalists—participated.

Their agenda consisted of pursuit of reconciliation, detente, peace, and democracy. As Mr. Mubashir Hussain, former finance minister of Pakistan, and Mr. Nirmal Mukherji, a former governor of Punjab, underlined in their speeches, the holding of the convention was in itself a great achievement. They could not have put it better, given the fact that the convention has generated considerable media criticism in Pakistan. The Pakistani newspapers seem to be vying with one another in denouncing the convention which sought to demolish the wall that separates the people of the two countries.

Needless to say the initiative to hold the convention had not come a day too soon. The relations between the two countries have sunk to their lowest point in peacetime. However, the response to the initiative shows that the people are keen to see that normal relations between the two nations are resumed at the earliest. Thus, where the governments have failed, the people seem to have succeeded.

Yet it needs to be stressed that the convention was at best a small beginning. Unfortunately, Pakistan has always been against any people-to-people contacts. Its order to close the Indian Consulate at Karachi was primarily aimed at preventing the people of Pakistan from visiting India. Right from the days of partition, the establishment in Pakistan has been propagating the myth that there is little in common between the people of the two countries. The stronger the wall that separates them, the better the chances of achieving its desired objective of hate India. It is this line of thinking that is at the root of Pakistan's consistent opposition to any attempt to bridge the gap that exists between the two countries. Its argument that the Kashmir problem should be solved before bilateral relations can be strengthened is at best a cover to keep th/wo people separate.

All the same, the artificial barriers that seek to curtail the flow of informationnnot last long. More so at a time when the world has been shrinking into what is called a global villagehanks to the communications revolution. Visits by the people of Pakistan would have revealed to them tha?atever be the state of diplomatic relations between the two nations, nothing divides them. This is onltural as they share a common history, culture, and even a language—Urdu—which is as much a live laneage in India as it is in Pakistan. The visits of Pakistani singers like Ghulam Ali, Mehdi Hassan, and Reshma have always evoked considerable enthusiasm in India. The massive turnout of the people for the India-Pakistan mushayra [poetic symposium] organized recently at Patiala in Punjab was yet another instance of Indian appreciation for the Pakistani artists. Pakistani films shown on Indian television through the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] Audio-Visual Exchange Program were a hit with the viewers. The Pakistani cricket players have also considerable fan following in India.

Similarly, Indian films and songs are quite popular throughout Pakistan. Lata Mangeshkar's songs had the highest popularity rating in Pakistan, but this has not prevented the government making them as inaccessible to the people as possible. The Pakistan Government has always viewed all this with suspicion. Its single-minded objective has been to check any cultural contacts between the people of the two countries because it fears that such cultural exchanges across the border will defeat the very purpose of its anti-India propaganda. For any visitor to India will realize easily that it is a vibrant democracy where the people of various faiths live peacefully and homogeneously.

Small wonder the convention evoked such a bitter criticism from the government controlled media in Pakistan. Far from damping the enthusiasm of such initiatives, it should encourage them to make similar initiatives in the coming days in both the countries because when people of one country speak to people of another country, the artificial boundaries disintegrate and human relationship prosper.

Five Killed in Andhra Pradesh Election Violence

BK0703025695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Andhra Pradesh, five persons were killed in violent incidents and police firing during the first phase of elections to panchayat raj [local government] bodies today. The Congress-I MP, Mr. Rajashekhara Reddy, was arrested in Vempalle for alleged unauthorized entry into a polling booth. The state police chief told our Hyderabad correspondent that one person was killed and six were injured when police opened fire to disperse a violent mob in Cuddapah District. The Naxalites of the banned People's War Group, who had given a call for boycotting the poll, attacked a police picket in Medak District and killed a police constable.

First Phase of Elections Begins in Orissa

BK0703043795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 7 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Orissa, polling has begun for the first phase of elections to the state assembly. Six hundred and sixty candidates are in the fray for 71 seats, polling for which takes place today. All but one of the 71 constituencies are witnessing multicornered contest while only one constituency will see a triangular fight. The ruling Janata Dal and the Congress-I have fielded candidates for all the 71 seats, while the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] is contesting 70 seats. The SJP [Samajwadi Janata Party] and the BSP [Bahujan Samaj Party] are contesting 33 seats each. The Samata Party—23, the CPI [Communist Party of India]—7, and the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist]—3. Three hundred and twenty nine independents are also in the field. Elaborate security arrangements have been made to ensure a free and fair poll. Twenty nine constituencies have been identified as sensitive and hypersensitive. The second phase of elections in 76 constituencies of the state will be held on Thursday [9 March].

Rao Orders Increased Subsidies, Social Spending

BK0703033895 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD in English 27 Feb 95 pp 1, 6

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao, has directed the Ministry of Finance to substantially enhance outlays on food subsidy and the revamped social sector programmes in the Union budget for 1995-96. The restructuring of the social sector programs will include a revamp of the existing Jawahar Rozgar Yojana [Employment Plan]. In addition, the government is likely to come down heavily on the leakages in the delivery system because of which the outlays often do not percolate to the targeted population. Besides, Rao has also indicated that a sum of Rs [rupees] 5,200 crore be set aside for spending on child welfare and development programmes over a five-year period, say top sources in government.

To ensure that the blueprint is ready in time the prime minister has entrusted the task to his Principal Secretary A. N. Verma. Verma, who has been hitherto handling key economic sectors, held the first of the high-level meeting on Saturday to prepare an action plan. The thrust of the plan will be to address the problems faced by the rural and urban poor.

Sources reveal that Rao told his senior officials at his residence early last week that there should be no let-up in the process of liberalization. However, the government should also proceed to take steps to achieve poverty eradication and ensure availability of foodgrain at affordable prices to the poor. Rao has made it clear that the budget should address the growing criticism that reforms were anti-poor. At one level, while the government will press ahead with reforms and restructuring in key economic areas, at another it will have to strengthen the social infrastructure to ensure easy availability of food and employment for the rural and urban poor, he added.

The government is at present toying with the idea of placing greater emphasis on the enhanced public distribution system. Proposal is to extend it by 500 to 2,200 blocks and of offload foodgrain at much lower prices in this segment. This move is also expected to address the problem of burgeoning foodgrain stocks in the wake of successive good harvests. This has pushed up carrying costs of the government and thereby raised the outgo on the food subsidy Bill. This will ensure that the public distribution system is directed at the needy. The food subsidy outlay in 1994-95 was placed at Rs 4,000 crore.

This estimate has been already overshot on account of several factors. In addition, the government has had to absorb the subsidy it forked out on the sugar imports effected last year. The outgo on this count alone is in the region of Rs 700 crore. The principal secretary is also expected to suggest a blueprint for revamp of the various employment programs, particularly the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and the Employment Assurance Scheme. These are the two largest schemes in implementation to generate rural employment. The revamp will be done to ensure less leakages from that system.

The Prime Minister's Office is considerably exercised over the leakages which derails implementation of the program. Government sources point for instance that despite enhanced outlays for rural development programmes, the percolation to the needy sections is "abysmally low". The outlay for rural employment was hiked from Rs 3,306 crore in 1993-94 to Rs 5,050 crore in 1994-95. This was consistent with the government's emphasis to progressively increase outlay or rural development in each budget. The outlay for rural development has been more that doubled from Rs 3,100 crore in 1992-93 to Rs 7,010 crore in 1994-95.

Fate of Labor Viewed Under Economic Reforms

BK0703093595 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 7 Mar 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Making reforms sustainable"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Recent newspaper reports, revealing that virtually no industrial unit in the Capital manufacturing electronic goods pays its workers the statutory minimum wages, provide a useful insight into why the Government is compelled to constantly reiterate the plea that the economic reforms programme is not anti-labour. They also give an indication of the reasons behind the suspicion with which most workers treat such claims. What is happening in Delhi's electronic goods manufacturing units is almost definitely typical of most other industrial establishments of a similar scale in all parts of the country. Trade unions certainly seem to believe this and it would be difficult to come up with sound enough grounds on which to question their certainty on this score. What this means is that for millions of Indians working in relatively small-sized establishments, including many in the organised sector, the statutory minimum wage is a mirage that has nothing to do with the reality that faces them.

The fact that the Government fixes this minimum wage, but clearly is either unwilling or unable to ensure that it actually is paid, does nothing to boost the confidence of the worker in the state's professed concern for his well-being. This is especially true at a time when the private corporate sector is seeking and getting greater freedom in fixing the remuneration of its senior executives. Ceilings on these are gradually being relaxed. It is time also that the private companies realise that liberalisation must cut both ways. Their concern about losing top-notch managers to foreign competitors because of constraints on the amounts they can pay, does not fit in with their deliberate policy of suppressing the wages paid to their workers by circumventing the laws. Also, if the reforms are to succeed in any meaningful way, there must be a modicum of discipline when if comes to implementing laws, however inconvenient they may be.

As for the Government, its pronouncements on giving the reforms programme a "human face" and on ensuring that the workers do not bear a disproportionate part of the burden of adjustment, sound very hollow in this context. However earnest it may be in its intentions of creating the much-talked-about social safety net, it will not be taken seriously by those it is addressing on these issues unless it is seen to act decisively on those safeguards for labour that already exist in the statutes. The Government has a particularly important role to play in the case of the immense unorganised sector and the smaller units in the organised sector. For, organisations of employees in the Government, the public sector and the large scale private units are better equipped than most to take care of their interests. Those in the smaller and unorganised units, on the other hand, form easily the most vulnerable segments of the industrial labour force and desperately need the protective umbrella of the state. Given their numbers, they could also be the key to the sustainability of the reforms.

Paper Views Apprehensions Over Rupee Devaluation

BK0603112795 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 4 Mar 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Control Ought To Be Exercised"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The instability in the money markets can be gauged from the manner in which the value of the rupee has fallen in the wake of apprehensions about a devaluation of the currency. This began when an American company said that with high inflation, if not this then in the following year, India would be forced to devalue the rupee. Because of inflation, the price of Indian products in the international market will rise and soon they will be thrown out of the competition. This would put pressure on the balance of trade. However, with the possibility of general elections next year, the government will not dare devalue the rupee, although it may be compelled to after the elections to enhance exports. Following the statement, some people in India also started demanding a devaluation, which led to all sorts of rumours flooding the market. Companies exporting on a large scale, foreign banks, and later, the State Bank fought to corner foreign currency, and began to buy and stock large amounts of U.S. dollars before it became more costly. Exporting companies began to ease pressure on foreign buyers for bill payments in the hope that these payments will bring in increased sums of money at a later time. This generated real pressure on the rupee which then began to fall and weaken against dollar. It is true presently that the government will not allow the rupee to fall as it still has enough foreign currency reserves to intervene in the markets. Although our US$20 billion in reserves is not large, we can still cope with these fluctuations. Besides, the reserves is enough to sustain five to seven months of imports. Still it is certain that we presently we do not need a devaluation. The government also cannot take any such risk for various political and economic reasons. The FCCI [Federation of the Chambers of Commerce of India] Chairman, Mr Rungta, said a devaluation at present would automatically enhance our loan repayment quantum, adding that it is an over simplification to think that we could enhance our exports by depreciating the rupee. The most essential requirement for staying competitive in the international market is to maintain the quality of our goods and ensure their timely supply. We need to ponder why and how a little apprehension over the possible devaluation has shaken our markets, especially because the world market is not as open as it is claims to be. The American companies studying the markets and guiding investors always indulge in such political and economic games. Unfortunately, their analyses command so much respect that their little off-the-cuff remarks can lead investing companies to disturb the money market of any country. To overcome their such destructive games, what is required is not so much economic but political stability and strength. Unless we make it absolutely clear that only we control our economy, in which we leave no scope for any outside interference, we are likely to meet the same fate in the name of the free market, which has been the eventual lot of the Latin American countries.

Iran

Dismantling of Gulf Island Missiles Said Under Way

MM0603163195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Mar 95 p 4

[Report by Safa Ha'eri: "Report of Iran's Withdrawal of Missiles Deployed in Gulf"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Paris—A secret Iranian organization opposed to the present regime has said that the Iranian Revolutionary Guard has begun to dismantle the Hawk missiles deployed on some Islands in the Gulf, including Abu Musa.

The "Babak Khorram Din" organization pointed out that the Pasdaran (the Revolutionary Guard) has begun to dismantle the missiles' bases after Washington revealed their existence on Sirri and Abu Musa islands.

An unidentified military source had told IRNA that Iran "has every right" to conduct movements for its forces—indirect confirmation of the U.S. statement on the movement of missile bases to islands in the Gulf. The opposition organization said that the surface-to-air missiles deployed by Iran, which have a 20-km range, are "versions" (of Hawk missiles) manufactured by Iran itself at military installations in Esfahan (in the center of the country).

The organization said that the Iranian regime thought that deploying the missile woulds provoke a diplomatic crisis with the Arab states and the United States, hence diverting the attention of local public opinion to this crisis, instead of focusing on domestic crises: political, social, financial, and economic. [passage omitted]

Naval Units on Display During Military Exercises

LD0603192895 Tehran IRNA in English 1834 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bandar 'Abbas (Hormuzgan), March 6, IRNA—The second day of a five-day maneuvers of the Iranian Armed Forces code-named 'Tm Na', continued in the Persian Gulf, Hormuz Strait and the Gulf of Oman on Monday [6 March], achieving its intended goals.

On the second day of the maneuvers, army units gave a display of coordinated action with submarines and destroyers. Naval units also staged tactical operations and electronic war as well as exercises to evaluate the hypothetical enemy.

The exercises also saw diving teams successfully carry out boarding of ships.

The exercises will continue till Thursday.

Arrested General Placed in Solitary, Denied Treatment

MM0603134195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Mar 95 p4

[Unattributed report: "General Rahimi Referred to Trial on Charge of Plotting To Overthrow Iranian Regime"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Official Iranian sources in Tehran have confirmed that a prominent Iranian military man will be sent for trial on a charge of plotting to overthrow the regime.

Retired General 'Azizollah Amir Rahimi was arrested last November after publishing a series of articles urging the mullahs to "return to the mosques" and "give efficient and honest people the chance to form a government."

The 73-year old Amir Rahimi had also given a number of interviews to world media representatives condemning the government of 'Ali Khamene'i, "the revolution's leader."

At the beginning the authorities appeared divided as to the best way of dealing with Gen. Rahimi. At the end of November he was taken away by security officers to meet with Intelligence and Security Minister 'Ali Fallahian but was released a few hours later.

Two days later the authorities arrested him again, this time on the charge of opium addiction, and admitted him to a military hospital for treatment.

Rahimi's arrest caused angry reactions in the circles of senior Army officers, who signed a petition calling for his immediate and unconditional release. The ruling mullahs saw that as a challenge and a mutiny by the military. Some sources say that Khamene'i (in his capacity as commander in chief of the armed forces under the constitution) personally ordered the arrest of Amir Rahimi.

In a telephone interview with with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday, a spokesman for Amir Rahimi's family said that the general is being held in solitary confinement and denied the usual medical care. The spokesman added that "They are clearly trying to break his will by keeping him in solitary confinement. The authorities have dropped the opium addiction charge because it is so ridiculous. Now the authorities are talking about a military trial." [passage omitted]

Embassy Refutes Spanish Daily's Allegations of Torture

LD0703111995 Tehran IRNA in English 1007 GMT 7 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Madrid, March 7, IRNA—Iran's embassy in Spain has sent a letter to the Spanish daily 'EL PAIS' in reponse to the report the daily published on February 21 on the alleged public executions in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The daily had quoted the French news agency (AFP) as criticizing Tehran for subjecting prisoners to torture and worsening of human rights situation in the country.

The embassy's statement termed the report as another step to distort the truth, a campaign against the Iranian nation which started some years ago. Accusations such as public executions and torture are levelled against the Islamic Republic of Iran by those who try to bring the Iranians, who have paid a heavy price to attain freedom, down to their knees, the statement added.

Rejecting the report by the U.N. special human rights representative, Reynaldo Galindo Pohl, the embassy announced that the Iranian writer 'Ali Akbar Sa'idi Sirjani had been freed from prison three months prior to his death of a heart attack.

Commenting on the alleged secret talks between Iran and Israel over the Israeli pilot, the statement said that Iranian officials on different occasions have denied the claim.

In its statement, the Iranian embassy referred to the hostage taking of four Iranian embassy employees in Beirut in 1982 by para-military forces supporting Israel and stressed that no report has yet been received on their fate.

MKO 'Terrorists' Trial Set for 15 Mar

LD0603151295 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March 6, IRNA—The first session of the open trial of the terrorists who assassinated a number of Iranian pastors and planted bombs in the holy shrine of Hazrat-e-Masoumeh (SA) and the shrine of the late Imam Khomeyni, will be held in Tehran on March 15.

According to the Public Relations Office of the Revolution's Court in Tehran, the terrorists, Batul Vaferi Kalateh, Farahnaz Anami and Maryam Shahbaz-Pour are accused of assassination and bombing of holy places.

The terrorists have already admitted their culpability and working for the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO).

Radio Examines Recent Iraqi Fighting

NC0503190895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1750 GMT 5 Mar 95

[Station news analysis]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to reports, battles have been raging between the Iraqi Army and the popular opposition forces in southern Iraq since yesterday afternoon. The battles are going on in al-Qurnah, at the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates 400 km southeast of Baghdad, in the marshlands where groups of the armed popular opposition are deployed. These groups took refuge in the area after the failure of the popular uprising that broke out in Iraq following the defeat of the Iraqi troops in the Kuwait war of 1991.

The same area was the scene of fierce clashes in February between the popular opposition forces and government troops. At that time, the opposition claimed to have inflicted heavy losses on the government troops during a number of attacks mounted from the depths of the marshlands.

Iraq has been experiencing very harsh security, economic, and military conditions since August 1990. The United Nations has imposed an economic blockade on Iraq since its invasion of Kuwait. The blockade is renewed every two months. The United Nations is expected to renew the blockade in mid-March.

The blockade, together with the Iraqi Government's policy, has triggered a wave of social corruption in various forms, including murder, theft, and other crimes. Above all, poverty and hunger threaten the Iraqi people with a real humanitarian calamity.

Reports carried yesterday said that Iraqi Government troops had been attacking the city of Irbil and other villages and towns with artillery and rockets for three days. The Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], led by Mas'ud Barzani, and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], led by Jalal Talabani, have confirmed this information. They say government troops were being massed on the borders of the Kurdish region in northern Iraq. That area has been out of central government control since the popular uprising of 1991.

In response to the bombardment of the city of Irbil, PUK leader Jalal Talabani threatened to attack and control the oil-rich city of Karkuk, which is under government control.

Political circles indicate that battles in southern Iraq and the tension in the north between the Kurdish Peshmarga and government troops, in addition to the concentration of Turkish troops on the Turkish-Iraqi border indicate possible political developments inside Iraq.

The major Kurdish factions that engaged in infighting—the PUK and KDP—have agreed to withdraw their troops from Irbil, work out a settlement for the dispute, and prepare their troops to confront government troops.

Azerbaijan's Fuel Oil Allegedly Supplied to Armenia

NC0703054995 Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish 26 Feb 95 p 21

[Report by Engin Giray: "Serious Treachery"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Iran has played a very serious trick on Azerbaijan, which is at war with Armenia. Some 400,000 tonnes of fuel oil have been purchased from Baku at a very low price and secretly transported to Armenia to be used for heating purposes and the maintenance of industrial production. It will be recalled that Turkey has imposed an embargo on Armenia and closed its airspace for flights to that republic. While the Azerbaijani people fight and die to save their territory from Armenia's occupation, they are not aware that Iran transports their petroleum products to help that republic's development.

A Turkish firm is involved in Iran's trickery against Azerbaijan. It has been ascertained that Iran urged a Turkish firm to help when it recently failed to acquire the amount of fuel oil it wanted to buy from Azerbaijan. The firm, which is said to be based in Istanbul, buys fuel oil from Baku for 7.5 cents per liter. The fuel oil is transported by tanker to the port of Bandar-e Anzali on Iran's Caspian coast. The firm transfers the fuel oil at the port to Iran for 10 cents a liter. The fuel oil is then transported to the refinery in Tabriz, where it is loaded on tankers and sent to Armenia as fuel oil from Turkmenistan. The sale of Azerbaijan's fuel oil to Armenia is arranged by the governor of Tabriz in accordance the Iranian petroleum minister's instructions. The transportation process is organized by the state-owned Bahmankar Company.

Turkey's Embargo Is Futile

The embargo Turkey has imposed on Armenia in order to support Azerbaijan has not achieved its objective because of Iran's support for that republic. Iran has maintained its trade with Armenia. A significant number of the commodities Armenia acquires from Iran originate in Turkey. The foreign news agencies have reported that Turkey's products can be found in abundant quantities in Yerevan's markets. Nevertheless, the sale of fuel oil to Armenia is a very serious blow to Azerbaijan. Armenia, which is at war with Azerbaijan, uses the fuel oil it acquires to improve its industry and gradually reinforce its strength in Karabakh. Apparently, Armenia is using Azerbaijan's own resources to weaken that republic. Meanwhile, the Turkish firm that acquires fuel oil for Iran indirectly supports Yerevan. It seems that while the Turkish Government insists on maintaining its embargo on Armenia, international trade is gradually becoming more and more important in the region. The Turkish firm, which is said to be supported by the United States and the European countries, sees no drawback in violating the embargo for the sake of a market of $40 million (1.800 trillion Turkish lira).

Official Refutes Caspian Oil Share Statement

NC0403130895 Tehran SALAM in Persian 15 Feb 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Rumors that Iran's 5-percent share in the Caspian Sea oil consortium is to be given to Turkey have been refuted.

This was stated in a brief interview with our correspondent yesterday (Tuesday) [14 February] by an informed source at the Petroleum Ministry. This source also added: Rumors that 5 percent of Iran's share has been given to Turkey by the Republic of Azerbaijan are strongly denied.

Stating that 80 percent of the Caspian Sea oil consortium's shares belong to American and European companies, he said: The share of the Republic of Azerbaijan is 20 percent, and on the basis of an official agreement, that country has given 5 percent of its shares to Iran and 5 percent to the Turkish oil company.

He added: Turkey's share was 1.75 percent previously. But with efforts by Mrs. Ciller's government, this share was increased to 6.75 percent.

The source criticized the propaganda commotion by the foreign press and mass media that Iran's share has been given to Turkey and added: A 90-day deadline, which went into effect a month ago, has been given to the members of the consortium to state their views for or against Iran's membership.

This informed source expressed optimism on Iran's permanent membership in the consortium. He added: Iran meets all the conditions that have been stated in the consortium agreement. Thus, the foreign companies have no excuse to prevent Iran's membership.

An official at the Turkish Embassy's economic section told our correspondent yesterday: Turkey's share in the Caspian Sea oil consortium was 1.75 percent. Recently the Republic of Azerbaijan raised this share to 6.75 percent.

The Turkish Embassy official did not comment on a question from our correspondent who asked from which country's shares was this addition made. Yesterday our correspondent's efforts to contact the Azerbaijani Embassy and the Foreign Ministry in relation to this issue were in vain.

It should be stated that the oil reserves of the three resources—Azeri, Cherakh, and Gonshali [names as published]—amount to 4 billion barrels and that by forming an oil consortium, various European and American companies are to start oil extraction from these resources during the next two years.

Recently the government of the Republic of Azerbaijan granted 5 percent out of its 20-percent share to the National Iranian Oil Company. But Washington has adopted an illogical stance and is trying to exclude Iran from this consortium.

It should be stated that Engineer Hoseyni, who is in charge of the Petroleum Ministry's department dealing with foreign participation affairs, is currently participating in a conference that has convened in London to discuss this issue.

Commentary Views Scope of Slovakian Visit

NC0703091695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 7 Mar 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati left for a two-day visit to the Slovak Republic yesterday at the head of an economic and political delegation. He was welcomed by Slovak officials including the prime minister.

During this meeting views were exchanged on the ways and means of broadening bilateral relations in the political, economic, cultural, and scientific fields. The two sides welcomed the expansion of bilateral cooperation in the various fields and stressed the need for joint efforts regarding important regional and international issues, including the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

This is the first visit by our foreign minister to the Slovak Republic since it broke away from the Czech Republic and declared independence. This nascent republic in the heartland of Central Europe has a strategic location, which undoubtedly has a considerable impact on its international relations and the expansion of its economic cooperation abroad. Friendly relations between Iran and Slovakia date from before the Islamic Revolution in Iran. After the revolution, political and economic relations between Iran and Slovakia flourished within the framework of Czechoslovakia. In 1364 [year beginning 21 March 1985] the first agreement on economic and industrial cooperation was signed between the two countries.

The new country of Slovakia has a population of 5 million. With suitable political motivation and an industrial infrastructure, Slovakia is pursuing the trend of economic reforms in harmony with its needs and its economic structure. With independence, the Slovak Republic eliminated one of the main obstacles to its desired development and change—it no longer had to follow the Czech Republic's working programs. Now it is forging ahead with its own reforms in economic reconstruction with foreign collaboration; membership of organizations; and economic and financial cooperation on the regional and international level.

Unlike the Czech Republic, Slovakia has displayed no haste to join the Western security structure, including NATO. The Islamic Republic of Iran is an important country in the region and is of special importance for Slovakia, which, in turn, is in favor of cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran in the political and economic fields and in the cultural, scientific, and technological fields to share experience.

Various Ministerial Appointments Announced

95LA0123A Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 30 Nov 94 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohsen Qara'ti, representative of Vali-ye Faqih in charge of the headquarters for enforcement of Friday prayers, issued separate appointment letters for Asghar Qorbani as deputy in charge of the headquarters and Hojjat ol-Eslam Niknam as the officer in charge of the headquarters for enforcement of Friday prayers in Tehran province.

Dr. Hashemi-Golpaygani, minister of culture and higher education, appointed Dr. Hasan Ramzjo and Dr. Morteza Saqa'ian-Nejad as supervisors of the second cultural and sports olympic event for the nation's students.

Dr. Mohammad Soleymani, vice minister for student affairs at the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, issued an appointment letter for Dr. Kamran Daneshju as deputy vice minister for student affairs.

Dr. 'Ali Reza Marandi, minister of health, issued separate appointment letters for Dr. Mohammad Amiri as director of the medical college of Bushehr and Dr. Vahid Hoseyni as director of the medical college of Yasuj.

Dr. Hoseyn Malek-Afzali, vice minister for public health at the Ministry of Health, issued an appointment letter for Ms. Khadijeh Kavianpur as the supervisor of the office of mouth and dental hygiene.

Engineer Mostafa Mirsalim, minister of Islamic culture and guidance, issued an appointment letter for Ahmad Bolukian as director general of the office of legislative affairs of the ministry.

Further Office Appointments

95LA0123F Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 28 Dec 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] In separate orders, Dr. Baqer Larijani, vice minister for student, cultural, legislative, and Majles affairs at the Ministry of Health, appointed Dr. Zia'oldin Tabe'i as the head of the Center for Research and Studies in Medical Ethics, Dr. Mostafa Mohaqeq as director general of student affairs, and Esma'il Esma'ili as deputy vice minister for welfare funds.

In ceremonies attended by Zae'ri, governor general of Hormozegan, and some executive directors in that province, Roknoldini was introduced as the new governor of Tonb-e Bozorg.

Per an order issued by Gholam Reza Foruzesh, minister of construction jihad, Mohammad 'Ali Homayuni was appointed as director general of the Office of Coordination for Investigative Commissions on Administrative Violations in that ministry.

Dr. Hadi Manafi, director of the Environmental Protection Agency, appointed engineer Naser Sorush, in addition to his current position, as the chief editor of the scientific periodical on environment.

Mohammad Hoseyn Bagh-Enayat Halva'i was appointed by Dr. Mohammad-Khan, minister of economic affairs and finance, as director general of the Office of Ministerial Affairs.

In an order issued by engineer Ne'matzadeh, minister of industry, Seyed Reza Jalal was appointed as director general for coordination of provincial affairs.

Engineer Gholam Reza Shafe'i, minister of cooperatives, issued an order appointing Mohsen Meysami as director general of the Central Office for Protection, and chief member of the commission of inquiry into administrative violations at that ministry.

Following the resignation of Dr. Gholam 'Ali Afruz as president of the University of Tehran, and on the recommendation of the minister of culture and higher education, confirmed by the supreme council of the cultural revolution, Dr. Mohammad Reza 'Aref, the minister's educational adviser, was appointed as the president of the University of Tehran. Also, Dr. Taqi Shamekh was appointed as the president of the University of Kashan and Dr. 'Abbas 'Ali Taherian as president of the University of Semnan.

Rafsanjani Opens First Stage of Qom Power Station

LD0603132395 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning President Hashemi-Rafsanjani opened the first stage of the construction plan of Qom cyclo-combustion [sekl-e tarkebi] huge power station.

According to a report by the Central News Unit from Qom, this huge power station comprises four gas units which will produce a total of 514 megawatts of power. A total of 15 billion rials and 23 billion yen have been invested in the construction of its first stage.

Also the construction work of a steam section of Qom cyclo-combustion [power station] began. The construction of this section will be concluded in 1375 [year beginning 21 March 96] and will generate 714 megawatts power into the country's nationwide power network.

The 312 km, 400 kilowatt power transmission line between Golpaygan-Qom-Jalal was also opened. Eleven million dollars foreign currency and 22 billion rials have been invested in the construction of this power transmission line.

Radio Cites Benefits of New Khordad Dam

NC0703110195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 7 Mar 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The massive 15 Khordad Dam was inaugurated in the presence of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani yesterday. This is the only development project in the country to be granted a construction decree by the great leader and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran himself.

As well as meeting some of the potable water needs of Qom's residents, the dam will harness surface water for use in agriculture. Thus it will play an effective role in the economic prosperity of the Qom and Delijan Districts. With the inauguration of the 15 Khordad Dam, another infrastructural investment project in our country has been completed.

Since our country is in a dry, semi-arid region with scarce water resources, and the distribution of water in our country is very sporadic and erratic, the construction of reservoir dams—to regulate the flow of water and changes in the method of timed water supply—is very important.

Before the victory of the revolution, despite the presence of abundant financial resources, the erstwhile government constructed only 13 dams countrywide. From the time of the victory of the Islamic Revolution to the period before the First Five-Year Plan, five more dams were completed. But with the quantum leap in the First Development Plan, operations to build over 20 new dams—some of them considered to be among the largest dams in the Middle East, even the world—were initiated, and nearly 10 dams have been completed.

Over 30 dams are under construction in the country. When they are operational they will meet most of the agricultural sector's water needs. The development of our water resources in the Second Five-Year Plan has been stressed heavily and extensive credit allocation has been envisaged for the swift implementation of the programs in this sector.

Among the distinctive features in this regard that merit attention are the growth of expertise and the capability of the country's specialists and experts, which has resulted in all the phases of study, planning, and the construction of dams being carried out for the first time entirely by the indigenous workforce and engineers.

Since our country shares few of the world's sweet water resources, effective steps must be implemented to improve the ways and means of water consumption, especially in the agricultural sector. Information has it that nearly 70 percent of water for use in the agricultural sector is wasted due to the latest irrigation methods not being used. With a change in traditional irrigation practices and the utilization of modern methods of drip farming and rainwater irrigation, we can make the most of the immense investment that has already taken place in this sector.

Bafq-Bandar-e Abbas Railway Project Completed

LD0603220095 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The laying of tracks for the Bafq and Bandar-e Abbas railway line was completed today, a decade after the work began.

The implementation of the Bafq-Bandar-e Abbas railway project, which is one of the biggest projects of the country's last 25 years, began in 1360 [21 March 1981]. This railway is 700-km long; 615 km has been built with double tracks, and the remaining 85 km is single track.

This project will connect the cities of Bandar-e Abbas, Sirjan, Rafsanjan, Bafq, and Bandar-e Shahid Raja'i and the mines of Gol-e Gohar and Sarcheshmeh to the country's nationwide railway system and ultimately to the European countries.

The implementation of the Bafq-Bandar-e Abbas railway project has cost 600 million dollars and 520 billion rials through the end of Bahman [19 February 95]. In the design of this railway, the speed of passenger and freight rail tracks has been anticipated to be 160 and 120 kph respectively. Modern electronic and communication signal systems will be used for their accurate and desirable control.

Oil Ministry Notes Increase in Gas Production

LD0503093095 Tehran IRNA in English 0551 GMT 5 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA—Oil Ministry Deputy for Planning and Research Affairs Kazem Vaziri said that Iran's production of processed gas had grown to 95 billion cubic meters per day during the First Economic Development Plan.

In an exclusive interview with the english daily IRAN NEWS, Vaziri said that the figure marked a rise from a daily production of 28 billion at the beginning of the plan.

According to Vaziri, the annual increase in crude production during the five years of the first plan (1989-1993) was 4.3, 5.4, 6.5, 7.3 and 10.7 percent above the predicted volume.

Meanwhile, he added, "the volume of crude supplied to domestic refineries grew between 2.6 to 9.5 percent above projected targets."

The deputy minister also noted that "the average production of enriched gas during these five years was 137, 177, 294, 216 and 224 billion cubic meters per day and the amount of gas used for injection into oil wells rose to 64.6 billion cubic meters in 1989."

NIGC Official Cited on Natural Gas Exports, Plans

NC0403133795 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 27 Feb 95 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The National Iranian Gas Company's [NIGC] plans on how to accelerate the connection of new branch pipelines to increase the number of plants using natural gas as well as the gas refinery output, the latest situation of gas distribution to various parts of Tehran, and the output and activities of the gas sector in the First Five-Year Plan have been announced.

Deputy Petroleum Minister Engineer Asadollah Salehiforuz, who is also the NIGC managing director, said in an interview with our correspondent: During the First Five-Year Plan, an average of 90 percent of our predestined targets in the gas sector were met. As a result, the capacity of the country's gas refineries was increased from 28 million cubic meters to 95 million cubic meters per day. Inter-city gas distribution pipelines were also increased from about 5,000 km in 1988 to 8100 km in 1993. Also, the number of branch pipelines were increased from 758,000 in 1988 to 1,875,000 in 1993.

He added that the NIGC operates in 218 cities and that out of this number 175 cities are now using gas. By the end of this year [ending 20 March 1995], the gas networks in Babol, Babolsar, Qa'em Shahr, Juybar, Mahmudabad, Nur, Fardis in Karaj, and Khameneh in Tabriz will become operational.

Salehiforuz said: Natural gas consumption in the country increased from 11.4 billion cubic meters in 1988 to 28.9 billion cubic meters in 1993. This was about a 20-percent increase per year.

Commenting on why all the goals in the gas sector were not met in the first plan, he said: The major reasons were the failure to allocate all the necessary credits, foreign exchange problems in the import of goods and equipment, and the absence of the necessary foreign exchange facilities.

One of the other problems was the expansion of the gas reserves was not in proportion to the expansion of the urban gas distribution networks. The expansion of the gas reserves calls for heavy investments. Therefore, to achieve a proportion in the growth of these two sectors, the NIGC has had to use only part of its potential in the field of gas distribution. For example, the NIGC will be using only 50 percent of its potential during the second plan. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the boosting of the country's refinery output, he said: The output of the Sarkhun Refinery in Bandar-e 'Abbas, which is currently 5 million cubic meters per day, will be increased to 15 million cubic meters per day in the first six months of next year [beginning 21 March 1995]. The completion of this refinery was delayed because of the delay in the delivery of goods. But this problem was recently solved and it is two weeks now that work has been resumed.

The Sarkhun Gas Refinery will meet the needs of Bandar-e 'Abbas, Sirjan, Rafsanjan, Kerman, Sarcheshmeh, and Shahr-e Babak.

Also next year, the remaining work on the second phase of the Vali-ye 'Asr Refinery will be resumed and the output of this refinery will be increased from 60 million to 79 million cubic meters daily.

Also during the second plan, in addition to the completion of the second phase of the Kangan Refinery, which will increase the refinery's output from 60 million to 79 million cubic meters per day, a development project concerning the Shahid Hasheminezhad Refinery in Mashhad also will be implemented that will increase the current output of the refinery, which has a capacity of 14 million cubic meters daily.

Salehiforuz said: To prevent heavy expenditures for gas supplies during the seasons when gas consumption is high, the NIGC has started studies on the construction of two gas reservoirs around Varamin and Qom. These reservoirs will be constructed on the surface of subterranean waters and will have salt domes. This will allow the storing of gas in the warm season for use in the cold season without any need for spending more.

He added: In the warm season gas consumption drops up to 50 million cubic meters daily. In addition to storage, we can also work on exporting gas.

Commenting on Iranian gas exports to India, he said: An international firm of consultants, which will carry out the necessary studies to determine the route to be used by the pipeline carrying Iranian gas to India, is being chosen.

We also have a nine-month agreement [as published] for gas exports to Georgia. Before that we also signed a similar agreement with Azerbaijan.

Salehiforuz added: Gas is being distributed to all points in Tehran except for the Bazaar area.

He said: In 1993 a plan for gas distribution in Tehran was prepared but was not implemented because of shortage of funds. However, the other projects continued and it is envisaged that next year all areas in Tehran will have access to gas. To fully meet the Tehran people's gas needs, a new gas pipeline, which is Tehran's third and is 112 km long, is being laid from the Kuy-e Namak area between Saveh and Qom. So far 60 km of the pipeline has been completed.

In addition, two belts are being constructed around Tehran that will connect the entire gas network of Tehran and will overcome the drop in pressure that is felt at the end of the pipeline in northern Tehran.

300 Billion Rials To Be Spent on Fishing Ports

LD0403204995 Tehran IRNA in English 1636 GMT 4 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas (Hormozgan), March 4, IRNA—Minister of Construction Jihad, Gholamreza Foruzesh said in Bandar-e Lengeh (over 150 kms west of here on the Persian Gulf) on Saturday [4 March] that Iran would build 23 ports and jetties to promote the fishing industry. He said rls. 300 billion would be spent on the project during the Second 5-year Development Plan.

Foruzesh said his ministry has allocated rls. 50 billion for building ports and jetties throughout the country during the next calendar year, 1374 (to start March 21).

During the First Development Plan, 10 ports and jetties were built at the expense of rls. 80 billion, he said.

He said Iran's annual fishing catch was 100,000 tons before the First Development Plan, while by the end of that period it climbed to an impressive 320,000 tons. The minister predicted that Iranian fishermen would catch 500,000 tons of fish by the end of the current calendar year. Foruzesh arrived in Bandar-e Lengeh on Saturday.

Fishery Cooperation Agreement Signed With France

LD0403182995 Tehran IRNA in English 1808 GMT 4 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March 4, IRNA—A French business delegation discussed cooperation between the Iranian and French private sectors in a meeting at Laleh Hotel here today.

Director of the fisheries department of the French Ministry of Agriculture and Fishery, Claude Brenet, said in the meeting that Iran and France can cooperate in the field of fisheries.

According to the public relations office of the Iranian Fisheries Company, the two countries have already signed an agreement on cooperation in this sector and Iran has suggested that France initiate training and research programmes for fisheries.

Pakistan

Important Shi'ite Leader Shot Dead in Lahore

BK0703105695 Hong Kong AFP in English 1022 GMT 7 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore, Pakistan, March 7 (AFP)—Unidentified gunmen on Tuesday [7 March] shot dead two people here, including a senior member of the Shi'ite political party Tehrik Jafria Pakistan (TJP), police said.

They said the assailants, riding on a motorbike, opened fire with automatic weapons on the car of Mohammed Ali Naqvi soon after he left his home with a friend.

Both died on the spot, police said. No arrests have been made, but police are investigating. Party sources said Naqvi, who was a doctor by profession, was among TJP's key organisers and a member of the party's supreme council.

Witnesses said that soon after the murder people from the nearby Shi'ite district took to the streets. They blocked traffic and damaged vehicles by pelting stones, they said.

TJP's youth wing, Imamia Students Organisation (ISO), in a statement later announced a three-day mourning for Naqvi, who was also founding president of the ISO.

Calling it a terrorist attack, the ISO statement here said that the Punjab province's government failed to curb the activities of extremist groups.

Scores of people have been killed in the rivalry between Shi'ite militants and an extremist Sunni group, Sipah-i-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP).

Meanwhile, an unannounced curfew has been issued in another Punjab town, Jhang, after the killing of a former provincial deputy and five others Sunday. Jhang is headquarters of the SSP, which has denied involvement in the killing. The former deputy, Sheikh Mohammed Iqbal, and his colleagues were shot dead by unidentified gunners while were returning from a friend's funeral.

Police were patrolling in armoured vehicles amid high tension in the town.

Sources there said the authorities had resorted to large scale arrests, but exact figures was not immediately available.

The government last month launched a crackdown on both Shi'ite and Sunni groups involved in sectarian violence. Some 300 people have been taken into custody.

Qureshi Offers To Mediate With Opposition

BK0603145795 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Mar 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore, March 5 (PPI/APP): Former caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan Moin Qureshi has offered to play mediatory role between the government and the opposition.

Mr Qureshi was talking to newsmen on arrival at Lahore Airport on Sunday [5 March].

He said consensus between the government and the opposition on vital national issues would go a long way in solving those opposition and the ruling party had a unanimous stand on the Kashmir issue. He advised the government to take the opposition into confidence especially on the Kashmir issue. "They should understand each other's points of view."

He expressed his grave concern over the situation in Karachi and noted that the government had failed protect life and property of the law-abiding citizens in the port city. He said the situation in Karachi had gone out of control of the government and this was creating a negative impression in other countries.

He called upon the government to pay immediate attention to the Karachi problem and if there was a foreign hand involved in Karachi killings, the Sindh administration must check the intruders.

The former Prime Minister denied that the United States was in any way interested in harming the integrity of Pakistan. "Pakistan continues in the region and Washington has nothing to gain if any harm to Pakistan's integrity is done". However, he stressed, the people and the government of Pakistan must be on their guard against any outside scheme to break up the country.

Moin Qureshi denied that the agreement he signed with the IMF as caretaker Premier was the main reason for the price hike and inflation in the country. He said that he had accepted the IMF terms only for one year and the next elected government had extended the agreement for another two years. He claimed that the agreement had helped improve the national economy.

As for the present economic crisis, he said this was because of increased spendings and low earnings. He said the situation could improve if the government cut down its spendings and paid due attention to tax collection and recovery of loans.

Mr Qureshi stressed the need for tolerance in national politics. He said that the democratic process must continue uninterrupted. The government and the opposition must abandon the policy of antagonism and tolerate each other for the cause of democracy.

When his attention was drawn to Mr Sharif's charge that the 1993 polls were engineered and their results preplanned to bring the People's Party into power, Mr Qureshi categorically denied the allegation. He said the elections were history's fairest, impartial and transparent ones whose results Mr Sharif himself had accepted.

Moin Qureshi said that Pakistan required nuclear capability for its defence and the country's nuclear policy could not be changed under any outside pressure.

He said that a nuclear deterrent was essential for Pakistan because of India's supremacy in the conventional arms. This country could not be expected to sign the NPT unilaterally in case India declined to do so, he added.

He said that it was a big achievement of the present government that the USA which had strongly opposed Pakistan's nuclear programme in the past, had finally agreed to Islamabad's stance on this issue and there was no pressure on Islamabad to sign the NPT unilaterally.

Spokesman Accuses India of Involvement in Bombing Attempt

BK0603134695 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An unknown man tried to plant a remote control explosive device to blow up a WAPDA [Water and Power Development Authority] transformer at Bandi Abbaspur in Rawlakot on the night before Id [Muslim festival on 3 March]. However, due to noise, occupants of the nearby house got alert. The saboteur ran away, leaving behind the device as they came out. The device was later defused by the local Army personnel.

A government spokesman showed the device to pressmen in Islamabad; 4 kg plastic explosive was fixed in bread box in order to camouflage it. The 1.5 volts batteries had clear India-made markings. The spokesman said it establishes Indian involvement in terrorist activities. He said ever since the movement in Kashmir has picked up new momentum, the Indians are bent on trying to create an impression of instability and harass people in Pakistani cities.

Japanese Firms To Invest in Power Project in Lahore

BK0503122195 Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 27 Feb 95 p 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore—Responding positively to government's liberal policy, Japanese entrepreneurs would set up 120 megawatt power station on Raiwind Road in private sector.

The $112 million project is being financed by Mitsubishi Heavy Industry and Toyota Tsusho in collaboration with Pakistani sponsor.

According to Chief Executive of Japan Power Generation Limited Zafar Mehmood, who is a Pakistani carpet dealer settled in Japan for the last many years and had brought together Japanese and Pakistanis for financing in Pakistan in industrial sector, the cost of project includes $75 million as the suppliers credit and the rest formed [as] equity. He said 10 percent of the project cost to the tune of $8.5 million has already been paid, letter of credit was in the process of being opened and public issue will hit the stock market by June 95.

He said ancillary building for the power project was nearing completion presently. He said this was the first project being financed entirely by private sector concerns of Japan.

He said that a paper mill based on Japanese technology for production of tissue paper from cotton waste, was also being established in the vicinity of the power plant by the Prestige Papers and was expected to go into production by end of next month or in April this year.

He said the paper mill will cost Rs. [Rupees] 110 million. Japan International, he said was a joint venture of Japanese and Pakistani entrepreneurs which has been awarded contract for uplift and some additions in the Lahore international airport terminal, this will be completed in one year at a cost of Rs. 49 million. Negotiations were in progress for airconditioning works contract at the terminal, he added.

South African Navy Ship Arrives in Karachi

MB0703111295 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in English 0430 GMT 7 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A South African naval ship has arrived in Karachi Harbor on the first visit to Pakistan by a naval vessel from this country. The officers and sailors on board, who were given a warm reception on their arrival, will be taking part in what has been described as a goodwill visit.

Editorial Views Current Events in Middle East

BK0603110495 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Mar 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Is This a Prelude to Another Gulf War"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington is playing its favourite tune again: Tehran, Tripoli and Baghdad are perceived as threats to Israel. This time the threat is from Hawk missiles that Iran has allegedly deployed on some islands at the entrance to the Gulf. This allegation was made by the American General, John Shalikashvili who could not even identify the islands but insisted that "we spotted them putting missiles onto launchers, which they have not done before." At moments like these when the US targets a Muslim country, there is no dearth of stories corroborating its allegations. The French Defence Minister also reportedly stated that Iran, Iraq and Libya are seeking to procure weapons of mass destruction and pose a threat to Israel's existence.

We do not know whether it is the beginning of another alliance against these three Muslim countries or to prepare a ground for further military adventures in the Middle East and the Gulf regions. But there is hardly any doubt that the Americans have not forgotten the Iranian sin of not bowing before the "global cop." For the last many years, Washington has been consistently expressing its anger and frustration over Iran's independent foreign policy which continues to resist the dictates of the Zionist sponsored new world order. What is even more revealing is that the American leadership has not reconciled to the idea that Muslim countries would also guard their sovereignty and independence without being appended to Uncle Sam's baggage. Washington's insatiable desire to humiliate Muslims has been demonstrated in the past bombing of Libya, destruction of Iraq's military and economic infrastructure, and pressurising those countries which are friendly towards Iran, not to sell Tehran any equipment that US considers a threat to Israel.

This has been going on for more than a decade. Now when every sane person in the world knows that the real threat to peace in the Middle East is posed by Israel with its 200 nuclear warheads and the fact that Israel does not make any pretension in identifying its targets which include Iran and Pakistan also; when the Arabs have been tamed and even on NPT, Cairo has given up its stand on signing this treaty only if Israel signs it, when Iraq has been destroyed beyond recuperation; and when Iran is a signatory to NPT, the US still finds Tehran as a threat to Israel. It proves only one thing that the Americans are either ignorant of the parameters of peace or equate it only with pro-Zionist policies. If a country is making weapons of mass destruction, violating human rights, tearing to pieces all those international treaties and charters to which it is a signatory, but has a warm corner for Israel, the Yankees look the other way and not only its sins are forgiven, it is even considered worthy of protection. But if a Muslim country follows a policy of non-interference in other countries' affairs and abides by all the rules of the game, but does not sanction the Israeli adventures, it immediately becomes a threat to peace!

We have no hope that Washington would ever overcome this syndrome but we appeal to the civilised world to tame this bully and to teach them some lessons in human history that nations earn respect through deeds which emanate from logic and truth. And if the Americans have any sense of fair play, justice or truth, they should give up this silly but dangerous game of levelling baseless accusations and respect those nations which demonstrate self-esteem and honour. More importantly, we would suggest that Arab countries should talk to Iran if they have any grievances against it and Iran should step forward in clearing any suspicions about its alleged deployment of missiles. Today's world is completely under the control of an evil forces and as the saying goes "khuay bad ra bahana bisyar"—evil intentions have many pretexts (to satisfy their appetite)—no moments should be provided to these thugs who would like to sit on the mouth of the Persian Gulf at the expense of the local hospitality of the Gulf states and then start their evil game of exploitation as well as annihilation of Muslim economies again. The lessons of the Gulf War should not be lost to this renewed American propaganda against these Muslim countries.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Warned of 'Alternate Measures' If Talks Fail

BK0703114895 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government has urged the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and its leader Prabhakaran to respond positively to proposals made by the government to reestablish peace in the country. Although the LTTE has slowed down the peace process by not adequately responding to the government's efforts to hasten the re-establishment of peace, the government reiterates its abiding commitment to the peace process. This is stated in a communique issued by the Presidential Secretariat on the LTTE's response to the recent peace efforts of the government.

According to the communique, the government has continuously proposed to the LTTE for the past three months that direct talks between the two sides be held, aimed at finding a political solution to the ethnic question. The LTTE has so far not agreed to this proposal. Thereafter, the government proposed in a letter to the LTTE that the preliminary talks could be initiated at least through the medium of independent foreign persons uunder the patronage of a foreign government. Mr. Prabhakaran had stated in that letter that direct talks between the government and the LTTE would be more appropriate. The communique said that he had not yet set a definite date.

The statement further said that alothough there had been extensive talks with the LTTE regarding the opening of passages to Jaffna, no final agreement could be reached since the LTTE insisted on the total removal of the

Poonrvn camp as a condition to opening the roadway. It was in this context that the government reopened both the Elephant Pass and Poonrvn-Sangapitti routes on the 24th of last month to facilitate rapid development work in the north as well as to facilitate free passage for the people. The LTTE, which has been demanding the reopening of safe passage to Jaffna, has unfortunately not accepted that move. It has not yet removed the fences which they had themselves erected blocking these two routes, while the government hasremoved all fences put up by its forces.

The government has presented to the LTTE a detailed reconstruction plan and obtained their suggestions as well. The entire project was estimated to cost 39 million rupees. The president in her letter of 16 February had informed Mr. Prabhakaran of the government's willingness to start initial work of the reconstruction program of the north. She also said that initial work could start on 20 February and the rest of the work on the first of this month. The LTTE's reply to this proposal, which came in the letter dated 25 February, requested that a number of new conditions, that are not directly relevant to the issue, be fulfilled before the tart of the work. The communique said that the government wish to inform the people of the north as well as in the south that the imposition of these new conditions has, in fact, delayed the start of the reconstruction program in the North.

President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga has reiterated that her government has been committed to bring about peace and has made efforts to achieve this goal. The peace that is envisaged will bring respect and dignity for all. The president was addressing heads of departments and institutions and the armed forces and the police at the Trincomalee Navy Headquarters on Sunday. The president outlined the government's present peace process with the LTTE and the constant dialogue with other Tamil and Muslim political parties and groups with an objective of stopping the war and restoring peace in the country. She said that every effort has been made by the government to persuade the LTTE to enter into a political dialogue and to end the ethnic conflict. President Kumaratunga in her address spoke of the reconstruction and development of the Eastern Province which is under way. The president noted that it was regrettable to know that the previous administration had not taken any action even to develop or reconstruct the liberated areas in the Eastern Province. In conclusion, she called upon all government servants in the forces and in the civil services to support the efforts to reconstruct the Sri Lankan economy and bring peace, which needs to be reestablished in the country. She reminded them of their duties as public servants in this process.

The motion to extend the emergency in the north and the east and in some divisional secretariat areas was passed in parliament last night with 180 voting for and one member voting against. N.R. Kalapatty of the Sri Lanka Progressive Front was the only dissenter. Winding up the debate, Deputy Defense Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte said that the government was taking every possible measure to resolve the ethnic conflict through peaceful negotiations. He stressed that if these efforts fail, the government will have to take alternate measures.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

— Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.

— Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.

— Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.